Villanueva takes over as AFP chief of staff

STORY ON PAGE A2

₱15

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLES

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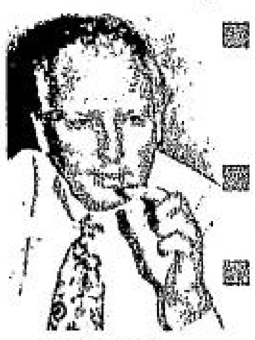
IN *Sunday*LIFESTYLE



HANSEN

- Chicken soup for the Pinoy soul / G1
- The greatest sale on earth / H1
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CHECK out the **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** today and every Sunday until the May 14 election for its series on all the senatorial candidates, including the Independents (really?). SIM also presents the party-listers, but only the ones that count because they are for real. Get to know those who deserve your attention, your trust and your vote.

The INQUIRER is conducting the candidates' profiles in partnership with GMA-7.

Voter's Voice Eleksyon 2001

Swiss to probe Irene

PCGG confirms discovery of Marcos accounts in 5 foundations

BEHIND THEIR COMMANDER IN CHIEF

EDWIN BACASMAS

Outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes (at left) turns over his post to Gen. Diomedio Villanueva after a testimonial parade and review at Camp Aguinaldo on Saturday. At the rostrum, President Macapagal hints she may name Reyes to another position. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

SWISS authorities are ready to investigate the fabled Marcos billions, and have requested German investigators to furnish them with reported evidence of Irene Marcos-Araneta's alleged attempt to launder her Swiss deposits through Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, according to a report of a Philippine envoy.

Zurich District Attorney Dieter Jann on Wednesday asked for "information on the results of the German investigation" so the Swiss authorities could start their own probe into the alleged money-laundering attempt, Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland Rora Tolentino said in the report to the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento said the evidence in possession of the German investigators, which is believed to include surveillance video footage of the Aranetas in Deutsche Bank, as well as bank documents they signed in opening Account No. 7690779, would form the basis of a possible Swiss investigation.

"It appears that Switzerland, upon representation made by the embassy, wants to act" on the new developments involving Marcos funds in Swiss banks, Sarmiento told the INQUIRER.

In what would be another important step toward pinning down the Marcoses, President Macapagal-Arroyo is likely to authorize the PCGG to seek the help of the Swiss parliament in the government's renewed quest to recover the family's alleged hidden billions, her spokesperson said.

"It is safe to say that the President is going to give that green light," said Renato Corona, disclosing that "we discussed it during a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday."

Tolentino yesterday reported to the PCGG that Jann formally submitted a letter to the public prosecutor's office in Dusseldorf on Wednesday, requesting the results of its ongoing investigation of Irene Araneta, which is being led by the criminal investigation office of the North Rhine-Westphalia region.

Quoting the three-page report faxed by Tolentino, Sarmiento said Jann made the request on March 14, two days after the INQUIRER reported that the Aranetas opened the German account to transfer deposits from an account in the Union Bank of Switzerland.

The Swiss account was reported to contain $13.2 billion in 1998, when it was exposed by Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

The PCGG also confirmed the existence of five more Marcos foundations holding accounts bearing a total of around $50 million in Switzerland. Manila has already petitioned Zurich to freeze the accounts through the International Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters bilateral agreement.

PCGG director for research Danilo Daniel said the PCGG has been monitoring the foundations for

SWISS/ A17

PPC: New politics, old gimmicks

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

"NEW politics" but old gimmicks.

"There are things we cannot get away from yet," admitted former film director Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, image consultant of the People Power Coalition, in justifying the presence of actors, actresses and "sexy entertainers" in the rallies and campaign sorties of the pro-administration slate.

PPC senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo giggles at the "things we have to do to win." Such as a "training seminar" on grooming and speaking given by Kashiwahara, and the constant smiling and handshaking.

"We have to smile like this so that we will not have lockjaw," Arroyo said, demonstrating a rehearsed curling of the lips.

Kashiwahara, sister of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., said the candidates on the PPC ticket were "their own stars."

"It's what they are (that's important). They are for the people," she added.

But Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano, PPC deputy campaign manager for Metro Manila, conceded that this was not enough. "We need the entertainers to draw the crowd," he admitted resignedly.

So far, "star for all seasons" and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos has not appeared at a PPC rally, but her name and that of "megastar" Sharon Cuneta are dropped without fail whenever their husbands, both senatorial aspirants, hit the campaign trail.

PPC/ A16

Luli: Not your usual president's daughter

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

"AFTER you get bored with me, I can resume my normal life."

HER professional achievements, not to mention her political bloodline, should readily be opening doors for Evangelina Lourdes "Luli" Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the accomplished 29-year-old does not happen to be every Pinoy's kind of a presidential daughter.

"Luli" first made news in her mother's tenure when she refused VIP treatment at the airport and when her "*nanay*"—President Macapagal-Arroyo—deferred approval of her well-earned foreign service appointment.

Luli was straight to the point. She declared she doesn't see herself playing a specific public role as member of the First Family—perhaps other than to "proxy for my mom in weddings and baptisms."

But by standing in line at the airport check-in

LULI/ A17

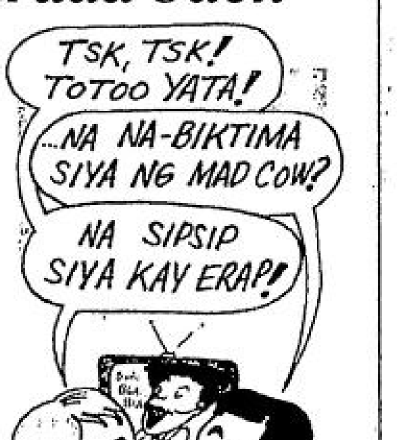
Miriam: Let's Cha-cha to bring Estrada back

THE COUNTRY can consider itself warned: If reelected, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago will do the Cha-Cha to reinstall the disgraced Joseph Estrada in power.

Santiago, a candidate of the Estrada-backed Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), issued this warning herself during a political rally Thursday in Lopez, Quezon.

These were her words: "*Ipaglalaban natin sa Metro Manila. Babaliktarin natin ang nangyari. Kapag ako'y nakabalik sa Senado, dahil ako'y* chairman *ng* constitu-

MIRIAM/ A16


TSK, TSK! TOTOO YATA!
...NA NA-BIKTIMA SIYA NG MAD COW?
NA SIPSIP SIYA KAY ERAP!

Hostage major's wife all set for big date

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA
AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

DENNIS SABANGAN

DENIMS for dad with love from Jenina and her mom, Cielo. Mother and daughter have been waiting "forever" for the man of the house.

CIELO Buan has barely slept in the past two weeks, and she is certainly not decked out for a romantic tryst.

The wife of Army Maj. Noel Buan, the remaining captive of the New Peoples' Army, is casually clad in a red top and denim capris. But she is ready for her most important date, one she has been dreaming of for the past one year and eight months.

"We've waited forever for this. This house has always been ready for Noel's homecoming," Cielo tells the INQUIRER.

The NPA's Melito Glor Command is due to free Noel, whom it has been holding as a "prisoner of war." The exact date and place of his release have yet to be arranged, but Cielo and their daughter 12-year-old Jenina hope that he would be home before his birthday on April 4.

The Buans' unit at the Philippine Army Officers Village is spic-and-span.

Golden curtains are neatly in place, along with the yellow ribbons Jenina taped on the door and windows—most of which have faded with time—as welcome greeting for her father in December 1999.

Noel's bed is made exactly the way he taught Cielo to do it—the covers straight and perfectly folded, just like when he was still bunking at the Philippine Military Academy.

No one has slept on that bed since Noel went missing on July 6, 1999. And no one has been allowed to take his seat at the head of the dining table.

HOSTAGE/ A16

SANA MAAYOS N'YO ANG MGA GUSOT D'YAN !

Villanueva faces fractious AFP

A HIGHLY divided Armed Forces racked by factionalism and politics as well as alleged corruption are what incoming Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva faces as he takes over as the country's highest military official.

In turnover rites at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday, Villanueva got his fourth star and command of the 113,000-strong military as the AFP's 28th Chief of Staff, even as top officials tried to control internal bickering about AFP leadership positions.

Acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita brushed aside the backbiting over military appointments, saying that "our President is the only one who can decide on these matters. It is the prerogative of our President."

However, outgoing military chief Gen. Angelo Reyes, in a television interview aired on ABS-CBN yesterday, confirmed there was infighting for top positions although he insisted that this was being exaggerated by the press.

Reyes relinquished the top military leadership position upon his retirement yesterday after a testimonial parade and review.

Reyes, a former commander of the AFP's Southern Command and the Philippine Army before he became chief of staff in July 1999, presided over the Estrada administration's war in Mindanao against Moro secessionists.

Commanders of the Southcom and the Philippine Army have traditionally gone on to become AFP chiefs of staff.

Villanueva, 55, is a native of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, and a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1968.

He commanded frontline troops that took over Moro Islamic Liberation Front camps and sent the Moro secessionist rebels packing.

For that, he was awarded the command of the Southcom and the Philippine Army, like Reyes.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had said that she wanted Reyes' replacement to be "someone who can unite the Armed Forces under the Constitution."

However, what followed was probably the most politically charged rivalry for the position of chief of staff. Villanueva, who bested three equally qualified candidates, is set to retire early next year.

Military sources have said that Villanueva's assumption to power will see the ascendancy of an Ilocano bloc of generals to important and sensitive positions in the AFP.

It is widely believed that Ms Macapagal will appoint Reyes as her defense secretary in gratitude for his role in leading the military to abandon her scandal-tainted predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

However, several military generals are known to be opposing Reyes' appointment to the defense department.

Some generals are also understood to be resisting Villanueva's installation as military chief, charging that he is a puppet of Reyes. *Alcuin Papa with a report from AFP*

GMA hints Reyes may head defense

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo remarked yesterday that retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes was "too young" to bow out of public service, hinting that he might be given another job in government.

The President's remarks at the turnover of the AFP command from Reyes to Gen. Diomedio Villanueva fueled talk that Reyes may be given the defense portfolio.

A Malacañang source doubts this, however, saying that Acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita enjoys backing from both former President Fidel Ramos and Executive Secretary Renato de Villa.

Also yesterday, Police Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza was designated Philippine National Police chief shortly after he informed the President that the kidnappers and killers of two UP Baguio students had been arrested.

Mendoza, who was PNP chief in an acting capacity, earned a fourth star a day after celebrating his birthday the other day.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal said it was too early for Reyes to fade out.

"With his proven competence and vitality, Angelo Reyes is indeed too young to retire from public service...I intend to make sure that his capability is not wasted, nor his momentum for service interrupted..."

Reyes turned 56 yesterday. His term had been extended for another two years by ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But Ms Macapagal said she and Reyes both agreed that "it is better to follow tradition and give the young officers a chance to move up." *Armand N. Nocum and Alcuin Papa*

Freed bombing suspects blame Ping for arrests

By Philip C. Tubeza

HUMAN rights organizations and the 24 Muslim suspects in the Megamall and Glorietta bombings who were released Friday blamed former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson for their troubles and urged voters to reject him in the coming May polls.

"The release (of 24) of the Maharlika 26 is a testament to the black record of senatorial aspirant Gen. Panfilo Lacson, who is also chiefly responsible for the Kuratong Baleleng rubout and the bloody massacre of Bukidnon's God's Catholic Spirit (sect)," said Liza Maza of the Bayan Muna party list group.

"We urge the Moro people and all Filipinos to reject him and his practices that are inimical to human rights," she added.

The suspects' release is part of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's efforts to entice the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to return to the negotiating table.

However, two Maharlika bombing suspects Nestor Boton Sulaiman, 48, and SPO3 Hadji Ali Guiao Samad remain behind bars. The government did not say why they were not released, said Marie Hilao-Enriquez, of the human rights group Karapatan.

"We want those responsible to feel the anguish and the pain that we and our families suffered while we were behind bars for the past 10 months," said Masukat Tumendeg Tambi, spokesman for the prisoners.

Most of the suspects are construction workers and were on their way to work when they were arrested on May 27 in Maharlika Village, Taguig. One of the suspects even lost his wife, who left him after he could no longer sustain his family, Enriquez said.

The suspects said they would talk with their lawyers, particularly those from the Public Interest Law Center, to decide whether to file counter charges against those who arrested them.

The 24 were released on the recognizance of their lawyers and were put in the custody of Maharlika community leaders.

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Solicitor General tells Comelec to get on with youth registration

By C. C. Yamsuan

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED move, the Solicitor General has sided with petitioners filing a case against a government office, and in effect has asked the Commission on Elections to get on with the job of registering new voters.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo questioned the Comelec's pegging of the possible dates for the special registration of new voters to April 16 and 17.

He said if the Comelec would only consider moving the dates earlier, it would finish the job without experiencing the complications feared by Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo.

"The Comelec's assumption of dates of the special registration on April 16 and 17 can be moved earlier (because) according to their timeline study, the work of finalizing the voters' list after the special registration could last until June," Marcelo noted.

Bayan Muna, a party list group aspiring for representation in Congress, wants the Supreme Court to compel the Comelec to conduct the special registration on March 31 and April 7.

The Solicitor General did a strange thing last Friday when he sided with citizens who filed a case against the Comelec during oral arguments before the Supreme Court.

Marcelo echoed earlier warnings against the possible disenfranchisement of an estimated 4 million new voters if the Comelec does not allow any special registration before the May 14 elections.

Lawyer Ruben Carranza, representing the petitioners, said the number is actually 6 million based on National Statistics Office data.

Akbayan, another party list group, and 19-year-old Michelle Betito, have asked the SC to force the Comelec to accept potential voters between 18 to 21 years old who failed to avail of the continuing registration scheme.

Marcelo said if the SC en banc would order the Comelec to conduct the special registration at the soonest possible time, "we can cut the entire period of registration (and finalization of the voters' list) by three weeks."

The Solicitor General added that Batas Pambansa 881 or the Omnibus Election Code allows the registration of voters during the sixth and seventh Saturday before an election.

Marcelo said the Comelec was "not lacking in experience" in implementing this rule.

"And even if not all 4 million will register then, even if we get only 500,000 to 1 million voters, we would already be successful. At least we did not deprive a substantial number of people of their right to vote," he said.

The Comelec has been adamant about following the provisions of Republic Act 8189, known as the Voters Registration Act of 1996, which prohibits registration 120 days before an election. The 120-day countdown started on Dec. 27.

Benipayo, in earlier interviews, said RA 8189 provides strict safeguards in processing the final list of voters. The integrity of the voters' lists would be jeopardized if the Comelec fails to adhere to these safeguards by accommodating the new voters, he said.

"The Comelec is not opposed to registration but its hands are tied by legal and operational constraints," he argued before the SC justices.

SC Associate Justice Bernardo Pardo, former Comelec chair, suggested that Benipayo invoke the provision of BP 881 allowing the quick registration of voters beyond the 120-day restriction imposed by RA 8189.

Rival fratmen nabbed in UP Baguio kidnap

By Alcuin Papa and Dave Veridiano

POLICE have arrested three members of a rival fraternity in connection with the kidnap-slay of two University of the Philippines Baguio students last Sunday.

In a press conference at Camp Crame, Quezon City, yesterday, Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza identified the suspects as Ronald Domalina, 18; Raymund Testado, 23, and Bong Sison, 21, all members of a breakaway faction of the Samahang Ilokano fraternity known as Magic 5.

Police accused the three of the abduction and killing of UP Baguio students Giancarlo Leung and Tihani Tingal on Leubach Road, Baguio City.

The bodies of the two were discovered in Pampanga on March 11 with bullet wounds to their heads.

Domalina was presented at the media conference, while Testado and Sison are in the custody of the Baguio City police.

"We are looking for two others but we cannot give their names so we don't jeopardize our operation," said Criminal Investigation and Detection Group director Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto.

The three suspects were tagged by their fraternity brothers, Job Calano, Christopher Ferrer and Jonathan Nibaten, who said they had been recruited to help carry out the crime but their consciences were bothering them.

Calano told police the suspects had ordered him to follow Leung to learn his movements. He said he followed Leung several times until March 8.

Calano said Testado asked him to go with them when they killed Leung, but he begged off, fearing he himself was going to be killed.

After Leung and Tingal were kidnapped, the suspects asked for a ransom of P1 million to throw off investigators, police said.

Police said the killing stemmed from the desire of the Samahang Ilokano fraternity to avenge Leung's alleged maltreatment of some of their sorority sisters. Leung was a leader of the rival Beta Sigma fraternity.

Sison and Testado were reportedly criminology students at the Baguio Colleges Foundation.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach BCF officials on Saturday to confirm this. *With Martin P. Marfil, and Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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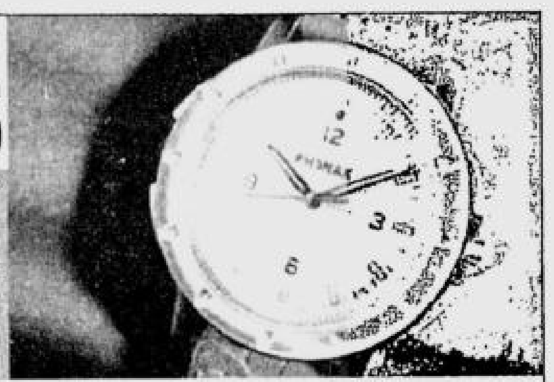

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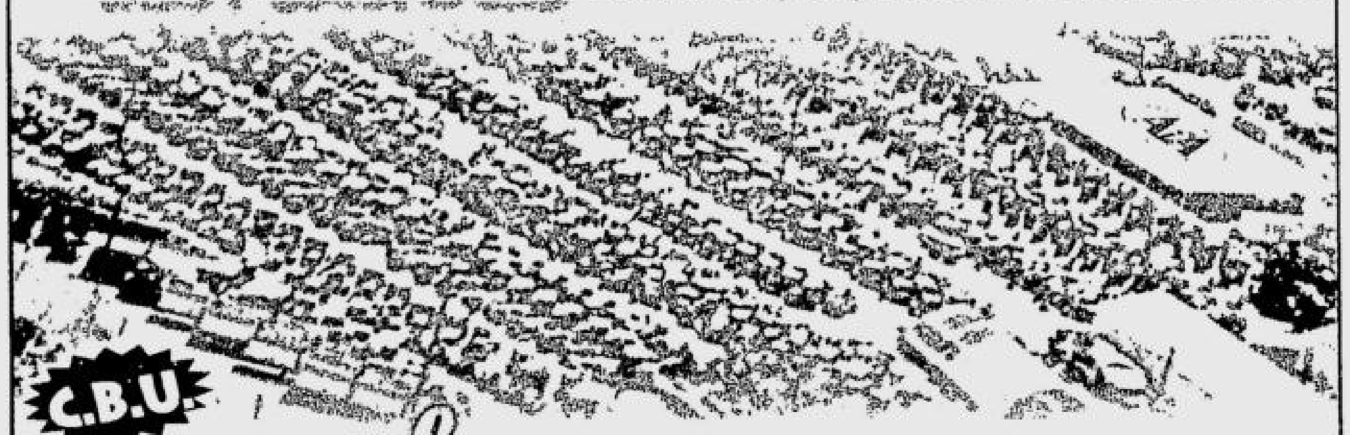

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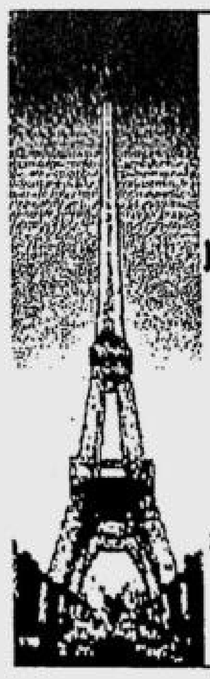

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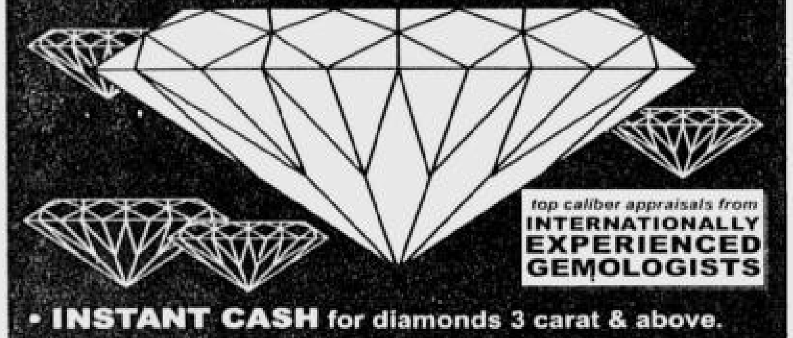

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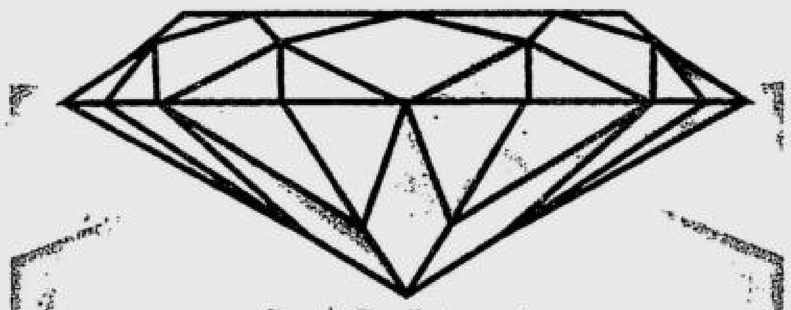

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CBCP seen urging voters to reject immoral, corrupt bets

By NORMAN BORDADORA

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines is set to issue guidelines for voters to consider when they go to the polls on May 11.

"The results of the coming elections will show whether or not we are about to enter a new era in politics," Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the CBCP, told reporters.

The CBCP is expected to draw inspiration from the experience of People Power II in framing the set of guidelines. Observers say that Quevedo is expected to deliver an unequivocal stand against popular but ineffectual leaders among the candidates.

He is also expected to deliver a strong message against "immoral" leaders and those associated with corruption.

"While the bishops are going against ineffective and corrupt candidates, the CBCP has always been supporting candidates who are pro-poor, pro-life and pro-environment," said Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the CBCP.

Quevedo reiterated the stand of the Catholic Church not to endorse any personality or political party in the coming elections.

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Prosecution witness in Manero kidnap-murder case a no-show

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The remaining prosecution witness in the kidnapping with double murder case filed against Norberto Manero Jr. did not show up for Friday's hearing, raising concerns the convicted priest-killer could beat the case.

Manero, alias Kumander Bucay, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1985 murder of Italian priest Tullio Favali and meted out additional years for attempted murder and several years more for arson.

Manero managed to escape while in prison and when captured, was meted out several more years in prison for evasion of service of sentence.

In December 1999, then President Joseph Estrada granted Manero a pardon. This was hastily revoked when its discovery in early February triggered a public outcry.

Manero was sent back to jail in Sarangani town, following the reopening of the 1977 abduction and murder of the two Mamalumpong brothers. The case was archived in the early 1980s when Manero and his common-law wife at the time, Leonarda Lacson alias Kumander Inday, escaped police custody.

The failure of witness Fahid Ismael to appear last Friday raised Manero's expectation that the 1977 case would be dismissed. Manero, his co-accused brother Artemio and Lacson, attended the hearing.

Regional Trial Court Branch 48 Judge Jaime Infante set the last schedule of hearing on May 7 after conferring with the prosecution panel, led by Sarangani Provincial Prosecutor Laureano Alzate, and Manero's lawyer, Thomas Falgui III. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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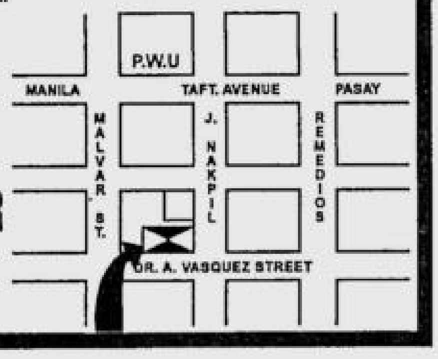

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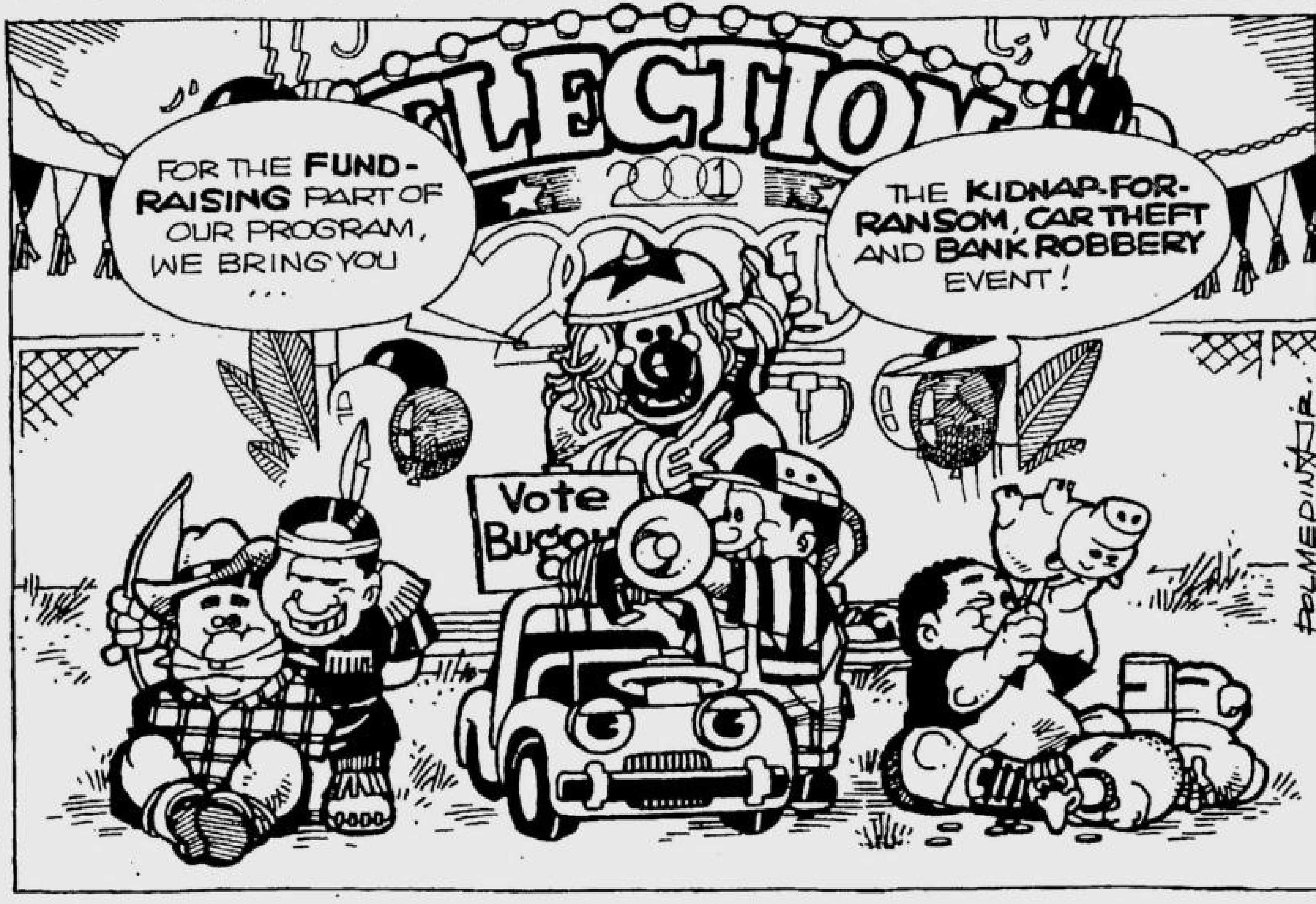
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Old politics

THE PRESIDENT of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has made a grim but timely reminder about the electoral mood in Mindanao. Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato said that the "Erap magic" still works in Mindanao and that many Mindanaoans still view the disgraced president in a kind light. He explained this could prove disastrous to the administration's senatorial campaign in May.

EDITORIALS

Quevedo said he believed that many members of the administration's Senate slate feel genuinely for the poor. But this should be adequately impressed upon the masses of Mindanao, who he said consider Estrada as the champion of the poor, although his unlamented regime was infamous for its excesses and depredations that worked against the interest of the poor.

Quevedo knows whereof he speaks. He was for a long time a missionary in the hinterlands of Mindanao where he worked closely with the people. As bishop of Kidapawan, he was noted for his pastoral work with the poor. Thrust in the limelight in the early 1980s when one of his priests was killed in cold blood by the Marcos militia (the celebrated Fr. Tulio Favali-Manero brothers case), he provided refuge to witnesses in the face of threats and sustained the case to its inevitable conclusion: the conviction of the killers. Named as archbishop of Nueva Segovia (Ilocos Sur), he was later returned by the Vatican to Mindanao, where the Church enjoys unique prestige for its closeness to the public pulse.

So unique is the prestige of the Church in Mindanao that prelates don't care to disguise their political conviction. Even Quevedo, who is otherwise infected by the canonical virus known as ecclesiastical prudence, does not hide his preference for administration candidates who have "genuine pro-poor credentials." The problem to him is one of perception. He explained the voters of Mindanao had not been sufficiently impressed by the sincerity of the administration candidates to work for the interests of the poor and the Mindanaoans.

When one considers that an old-style politician like Ernesto Maceda has once said that "politics is perception," then one should be necessarily discomfited by Quevedo's opinion. But the adage is true, whether it comes from lips sacred or lips profane. The politician who ignores it is bound to self-destruct. A good example: Maceda himself, a perfect case of a preacher who does not practice what he preaches.

Therefore, there is wisdom in Quevedo's exhortation for administration candidates to do an Erap, that is, mingle heartily with the masses, share bread with them and even help till the field with them. Of course, the immersion should not merely stay on the skin level; for how would that differentiate them from Erap the actor and communicator, whose pro-poor avowal is merely rhetorical, part of an actor's bag of tricks?

The candidates should translate perception into concrete programs that will alleviate the lot of the poor. Making the electorate appreciate these programs would require great communication skills as well as sincerity, which is best impressed by deed, example and a little sacrifice.

New politics

PERHAPS Quevedo's warning that the ousted president still holds sway among the masses of the South who cannot distinguish between image and reality should provide impetus to the campaign for a special registration day for first-time voters, particularly young people. It may be that the new Comelec leadership under Chair Alfredo Benipayo seems lukewarm to the idea because of the daunting logistical requirements of the exercise. But there's no better way to impress upon the world the vibrancy and maturity of our democracy than paving the way for the youth's direct participation in democracy and fully integrating them to the body politic.

The large number of unregistered voters among the young population eligible to vote is astounding: around four million. They hold the key to the future of our democracy. We say this because the election will largely be a reaffirmation or a denial of the revolution last January, a revolution that was characterized by the unusually large number of young participants. It could be said in fact that the revolution was propelled by the energy of youth, an energy that was informed, educated and discerning.

That energy should not be allowed to dissipate. It should be harnessed to ripen and evolve our democracy. If Quevedo's observation about the mood of Mindanao is any indication, the nation faces the threat of regressive democracy. Democracy has no way to go but forward. If it lingers and continues to be enthralled by old-style politics of which the so-called Erap magic is just a reprehensible variant, then democracy—and the youth—will have no future in the country.

A sense of rage

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW there is the report that Joseph Estrada is secretly seeking political asylum in some countries to escape his prosecution and punishment here. The report has been denied, but it is not unbelievable. The governments requested are only being diplomatic in the interest of international harmony. As for Estrada himself, he is as usual only mouthing his pious protestations as an uncanonized saint.

It's gratifying that the request, if actually made, has not been granted. Estrada is obviously shunned even abroad and has become a pariah not only among his countrymen but also other nations. His ostracism is only a small part of the price he has to pay for his heinous offenses against the people who had trusted him so much. The worst is yet to come, and he knows it.

The disgraced president has every reason to wish he were somewhere else than in his own country. He has categorically declared that he will never leave the Philippines, that he was born here and will die here. Those high-flown sentiments have been shot down by the revelation of his desperate wanderlust.

Given all the evidence piling up against him, the once powerful lord and master of the presidential cronies and courtiers is likely to transfer his residence to quarters less opulent than Malacañang or Polk Street. Erap's days as a free man are numbered; plunder is non-bailable offense if the evidence of guilt is strong. The evidence against Erap *is* strong exceptionally so. Even if he is convicted and appeals, he will still remain in jail while the appeal is pending.

I was amused and also disturbed by the report that the prison authorities were preparing an isolated island for Estrada's detention upon the filing of the plunder cases against him. The island, it was said, is practically beyond the reach of the pro-Erap forces that may want to help him escape. There are still a few misguided elements who may hatch such a plot in the stupid hope of restoring Estrada to his throne.

All detention prisoners should be treated alike regardless of their former station in life or position in the government. This includes fallen presidents. In 1999, the media exposed the preferential treatment of convicted rapist Romeo Jalosjos and several other influential inmates in the national penitentiary. Such favoritism should not be repeated now simply because the prisoner is Joseph Estrada.

A nice clean prison cell in the Sandiganbayan building will do for Estrada once he is arrested. He should not be granted any particular consideration not available to the other detainees. His offenses are no less serious, if not more so in fact, than murder or rape or simple swindling. Despite their gravity, however, he should not be subjected to inconveniences not also imposed upon the other prisoners.

A reader who has read my previous denunciations of Estrada, and who will probably read this article too, has written to gently chide me for my criticisms. Ruperto Garcia of Compostela Valley (a virtuous man, I am sure) suggests a little more kindness and understanding and quotes from the Bible as follows:

"Do not judge others and God will not judge you; do not condemn others and God will not condemn you; forgive others and God will forgive you."

"Why do you look for the speck in your brothers' eye but pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, Please, brother, let me take the speck out of your eye, yet cannot even see the log out of your own eye?"

Jaime Cardinal Sin should understand these admonitions much better than I can. But I do not recall that he hesitated to denounce Ferdinand Marcos before the upheaval that was Edsa I. The worthy bishop showed the same indignation against Estrada and led the recent Edsa II that caused the discredited president's downfall. Piety did not stay the cardinal's hand or still his angry voice against the despots.

I believe that even ordinary citizens like us should speak out when our rights are violated and our liberties are endangered. That is our obligation in the free society. Meek submission to the abuses of the government may seem like reverent charity. But it is actually siding with the Devil by confirming and abetting his iniquities.

Where would our country be today if Rizal and the other heroes of our race had not inveighed against the Spanish rulers instead of keeping a saintly silence over their tyranny?

How much longer would we have endured the Marcos dictatorship if the people's indignation had not erupted in the retribution that was Edsa I?

Would not Erap be still in Malacañang today if Gov. Chavit Singson—himself a confessed rascal—had not decided to expose his friend's enormous misdeeds?

Would the impeachment trial have succeeded (for indeed it did) if the prosecution witnesses had kept Erap's secrets to themselves instead of coming out boldly to testify against him?

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing," said Edmund Burke. I do not pretend to be a good man, but I most certainly am a good citizen for striving to keep our democracy alive. That is why I often rail against the ignorant entertainers and the ignorant masses that vote them into public office. That is why I resent Joseph Estrada and his ilk who made a mess of our country during his disastrous misrule.

What we need is a sense of rage for being used by our false leaders. That is why I'm not for forgiving Joseph Estrada although that might be the Christian thing to do..

Fruit bearing

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE GOSPEL today talks about the barren fig tree that was given one more chance, one more year to bear fruit. (Lk. 13:1-9) Sometime last year, an Indian mango tree I personally planted in our garden was uprooted by strong winds. I was about to have it cut, but my sister Manang Ming suggested that we put a hedge around it and apply fertilizers. Maybe it will still live, she said. Well, it did not only live. It is now bearing fruits...just because it was given one more chance!

* * *

Sad to say, it is a fast world we are living in, a world that wants results, a world that doesn't have time to wait for those who are slow or non-performing. Maybe in your very home there is an NPA...a non-performing asset. What to do with relatives or friends who are jobless, who have no drive or initiative, who are lazy, or worse, who are drug or alcohol dependents? How long and how much more will we bear with "such" people? It is not easy to have such a cross in life. It requires lots of patience, understanding and love. Let the Gospel message of CHALLENGE AND LOVE be our guide. We must not stop loving, we must not stop challenging, even when it hurts, especially when it hurts.

* * *

Last week I had a sick call. She was an NPA (non-performing adult), a 72-year-old bedridden woman who lived alone with a helper on a modest room. It was more of a heart call as I listened to the sorrow of this mother who is seldom visited by her three children—a doctor, a nurse and a pharmacist. She felt useless, not needed, not appreciated at all now that she is old and unproductive. The children do not exactly want her to be cut down, but she felt that they wouldn't even really mind if she were gone already. The few times they'd call her they would scold her, blame her and ventilate their complaints and inter-sibling quarrels and ill feelings. It is hard to believe, but some children make their parents feel that they are just "exhausting the soil." Don't look far. It could be happening in your own home and family. It might be your own parents, it might be you. Maybe your parents are a burden and they bore you. Don't forget it is they who bore you! Don't cut them down. Don't just wait for them to die. Cultivate and nourish them with love, now, while they are still alive.

* * *

What about the non-performing political leaders in our land? It is really *sayang* to let them occupy a seat, choice seats even and do not function at all. Worse, *wala na ngang ginagawa, gumagawa pa ng pera*. Why do we let such people exhaust the soil? It is really, really disgusting to have such people who suck. Yuk! Get rid of them. And let's not put in more of them this May. Cut them down now. Not next year, not three years from now. Now!

* * *

For seven years now, and every year, I go to Roxas City every March 13 to be with the family of my classmate Fr. Tony Barriatos, SVD who died as a missionary to Paraguay at the age of 42. Mama Nena Barriatos' wish is that she could at least visit the tomb of her son in Paraguay. Four times she applied for a US visa to join her daughter in the United States who will accompany her to Paraguay but was denied, because she is not financially stable. This year, she will apply again. Maybe we all can pray for her special intention. Maybe America will listen to the heart of a mother. Maybe the US Embassy is listening. Yes, maybe this year...help!

* * *

Ms Salvacion Salazar of Legazpi City is one good fig tree that has borne good fruits. She is the mother of two priests, Fr. Rod Salazar, SVD and Msgr. Ral Salazar. All her 10 children are PAs, performing assets, for God and country. Indeed, by their fruits you shall know them. A good tree is never really gone. It lives on. "Mommy," till we meet again, in the Resurrection! Mission accomplished!

* * *

Congratulations to the graduates of 2001. Your hard work and sacrifices have finally borne fruit! I don't know why, but every time I see graduates, I remember fruit salad. That's because there's a mixture of feelings so evident in the face of a graduate. There's joy and satisfaction, there's also sadness for it is time to say goodbye, and there's fear and uncertainty as to what tomorrow will bring. Whatever, happy fruit salad, err...Happy Graduation!

* * *

Congratulations too to all the parents and teachers of our graduates. It must be a wonderful feeling to see your plants grow and bear fruit. You are the unsung heroes behind the scene. Like the seed planted in the ground, it is not seen, but from its dying comes forth new life.

* * *

Life is short. May we all live fruitful lives. We are all just passing by. May we all live a life that is full, meaningful, love-full and God-full! And don't forget the Final Graduation in heaven. That is one graduation we all should not fail to attend. See you there!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord help me to live a fruitful and meaningful life. Help me to die to myself so that I can bear much fruit. Amen.

The rise of 'media personalities'

COMMENTARY

P.M. Lustre Jr.

ALL those "show-biz personalities," who are running for public office in the May 14 elections, are not necessarily movie actors and actresses or entertainers, who are taking advantage of their popularity and public exposure to win elective posts. Nor are they the dreaded entertainment has-beens, who, for lack of economic ingenuity or fallback, are making a second career in politics.

Most of those "show-biz personalities" are media personalities, who are in the serious business of explaining major public issues. Immersed in broadcast and print journalism, they perform the taxing but enriching watchdog functions, discussing public issues and expounding on them for better understanding. They criticize and perform advocacy works, using their particular medium to the hilt be it print or broadcast. Because of their crucial role and the subsequent public exposure, these media personalities are now emerging as the latest political specie that has invaded the country's political landscape.

Most of these media personalities do not really have to run for public office since they are largely successful in their respective fields. But for one reason or another they have decided to throw their hats in the political ring, believing that a political career is an extension of public service, which they are already performing as broadcast and print journalists.

Indeed, these media personalities should be thoroughly differentiated from those dime-a-dozen entertainment people, who have earlier sought public office and got elected without being subjected to a thorough examination of their own fitness and qualifications to hold elective office. A number of these entertainment people are also seeking reelection or running for the first time in the coming polls and their number is rising to the voters' discomfiture.

These movie actors and actresses and comedians are creating political illusions out of the fantasy world of entertainment, in the end deceiving voters of their own fitness to hold public office. In sharp contrast, those media personalities go out to the political arena with truth as their main weapon. Their training, which is to deal with reality (and not fantasy), is very much antithetical to that of entertainers.

It is wrong to assume that the entertainment people are lording it over the political arena; they are not. In reality, they are now being eased out by the media personalities. The ouster of President Joseph Estrada, a former movie actor, is already creating a political backlash favoring the media personalities, who have chosen to distance themselves from Estrada even before the impeachment trial and to cultivate a public image of crusaders and advocates.

In 1998, several media personalities, notably Senators Loren Legarda and Renato Cayetano, won convincingly owing largely to their public exposure. Legarda topped the senatorial elections because of her public exposure as a crusading broadcast journalist. Cayetano has developed tremendous recall among voters mainly through his radio program where he gave free legal advice. Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. of Surigao del Sur won because of his exposure as a tabloid newspaper publisher. It could be said that their political victories have somehow inspired other media personalities to follow suit.

Right now, ABS-CBN appears to have the biggest number of media personalities who have plunged into the wild world of Philippine politics. Broadcast journalists and TV hosts Noli "Kabayan" de Castro and Ricardo "Dong" Puno Jr. and lawyer Francis Pangilinan (who, like Cayetano, has gained a following because of his free legal advice over the airwaves) are running for Senate seats. For its part, GMA-7 does not want to be left behind; it has TV host Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod, an economist, who is also running for senator.

Radio host Teodoro Etong (a.k.a. Ted Failon), TV host Teodoro Locsin Jr. (also the publisher of Today) and prominent broadcast journalists Rod Izon and Ronald Estella—all of ABS-CBN—are all seeking congressional seats. Etong faces incumbent Rep. Alfred Romualdez in Leyte's first congressional district. Locsin seeks to replace Rep. Joker Arroyo, who is running for senator, in the first district of Makati City. Izon battles Rep. Antonino Roman in Bataan's first district.

There are other media personalities from community newspapers and broadcast media outfits who are also running for elective posts. They are mostly running for local posts—mayors, vice mayors and councilors.

The most telling credential for every aspiring media personality is the performance of those media personalities who have been elected to public office. Since their election in 1998, Legarda and Cayetano have shown creditable performance as lawmakers. They shone as senator-judges at the impeachment trial. People remember the tormented face of Legarda, who unabashedly cried when her fellow senator-judges refused to open the second envelope.

Also very important is their mind-set, the sense of history these media personalities have displayed so far. No, those media personalities did not side with Estrada, much unlike those movie actors like Senators Tito Sotto and Ramon Revilla. Those media personalities are very much conscious—or even fearful—that they could not afford to side with wrongdoers because they themselves would be subjected to media-bashing, the same thing they have been doing for every erring public official. They know that the stakes are too high.

Can we trust those media personalities?

The way things are happening, there is basis to say that those media personalities have evolved and deserve some degree of initial trust and confidence. They could be much better than those hordes of movie actors and actresses and comedians, who probably think that they have a franchise to public office by virtue of their popularity. They could be better than many traditional politicians, who probably think their stay in political power should continue at all costs, be it fair or foul. They could be better than the political megalomaniacs, who think they are the highest form of political animals on this planet.

Those media personalities deserve our consideration in the coming elections. But still we should be vigilant and watchful of their performance. Voters should not allow them to deteriorate just like those entertainers, who have been elected to public office.

P.M. Lustre Jr. is a freelance journalist.

Intrigues in Davao politics

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DAVAO—Things are looking verry interesting on the political front in this city. Contesting the mayoralty are incumbent Mayor Ben de Guzman and his predecessor, Rep. Rodrigo Duterte. Adding spice to the contest, however, is Duterte's sister Jocelyn, who is running for mayor as an independent, apparently to jeopardize her brother's candidacy. The Duterte siblings are feuding over inheritance matters, but it seems they've now taken the fight to the political front. Latest news is that Congressman Duterte has filed a petition to exclude his sister, on grounds that she is a nuisance candidate.

Even if Duterte succeeds in taking his sister out of the race, though, another "relative" running in the local polls could prove to be even more embarrassing for him. His former wife Elizabeth Zimmerman, who recently won a declaration of nullity from the congressman, is running for councilor under De Guzman's ticket. Wonder what Elizabeth, who so scuttlebutt goes finally had it with the former mayor's freewheeling lifestyle, will have to tell about life with the colorful former Mayor of Davao?

While still on Davao local politics, a woman worth supporting is Pilar Braga who is running for vice mayor with De Guzman. Their ticket is under the People Power Coalition. Pilar, who is a good friend, has been a member of Pilipina-Davao for many years and has served as a respected councilor for three terms. Pilar is one woman politician who has proven her worth as a supporter of women's causes. Though she did not initiate it, Pilar played an important role, together with outgoing Councilor Luz Ilagan, in the enactment of the Davao Women's Development Code, which codifies all the laws and ordinances that have to do with women's concerns and enabled women to be organized down to the barangay level.

Also intriguing is the political situation in Davao del Norte, already written about in this paper. Though incumbent Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario and Rep. Antonio Floirendo are officially with Lakas, the chairmanship of the PPC in the province has been given to former Ramos Agriculture Secretary Roberto Sebastian of Reporma. An alliance is out of the picture because Sebastian is also contesting Del Rosario's seat, while fielding his daughter against Floirendo.

* * *

IT'S been a hectic four days so far. Last Thursday, the Abanse! Pinay leaders met with barangay women from Davao City, with the women sharing stories of their own empowerment through livelihood programs and by joining and organizing neighborhood organizations. Then it was on to lunch with the Ventures Club and Soroptomists at Annie's, a tony establishment that is one of Davao's more charming eating places. Many thanks to Ventures Club president Marilou Sian and to all her members for hosting us!

The next day, we dropped by Panabo on the way to a big gathering in Tagum. Panabo is aspiring for cityhood and will be holding a referendum on the matter this month. Together with Councilors Connie Yambao and Bing Dulay, dynamic women both and staunch supporters of Abanse! Pinay, we met with barangay leaders to dialogue on their projects for women. In Barangay Gredu, the local officials, headed by Barangay Chair George Antolin, shared how they were able to set up a "Bantay Banay" center to serve abused women and children. With the help of the Kahayag Foundation and the Panabo city government, the barangay was able to upgrade its barangay hall and send residents to undergo training in counseling and paralegal assistance. Once notorious in Panabo for street crime and violence, Barangay Gredu today, says Antolin, is relatively peaceful though he must sometimes resort to unorthodox ways of settling disputes, such as allowing a battered wife to beat up her husband in full view of the center staff.

From Panabo, it was on to Tagum, now transformed into a booming and modern city under the leadership of Mayor Rey Chiong Uy and his very able and active wife Alma. The day before, Abanse! Pinay secretary general Remmy Rikken had gone on ahead to speak before the huge Women's Month gathering of Tagum's women and a provincial congress of barangay health workers. That afternoon, Remmy and I were also guests at a public consultation conducted by Abanse! Pinay Party-list Rep. Pat Sarenas who is chair of the committee on women. The consultations are part of a process of gathering grass-roots women's views in time for reporting on the government's compliance on the Cedaw or Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A consultation was held in Davao City the day before, and another one has been scheduled in General Santos City.

Helping organize the consultation in Tagum was Shirley Aala, who is seeking to return to the provincial board. Shirley gathered women from all over Davao del Norte in a gym set in the middle of rice fields, and though it rained just as the consultation began, showering everyone with a fine mist, the women stayed on and heatedly discussed problems of both a personal and political character.

* * *

IT hasn't all been politics on this trip, though.

On our first night in Davao, through the invitation of Tita Pat Montemayor, Pat and I dropped by the Mandaya Hotel for the testimonial dinner and conferment of this year's Datu Bago Awards.

Named after a much-loved and renowned tribal leader, the Datu Bago Awards honor outstanding Davaoeños who have contributed to the enrichment of civic life in the city. I was so glad I came to the dinner, even if we had just arrived from Manila, because one of the awardees was Cristina "Tia Tinay" Zuno, with whom the Jimenez family shares a special bond. I was especially proud of her when I found out that Tia Tinay is a media institution in Davao, having been a radio commentator and columnist on Davao affairs for more than 50 years for the Mindanao Times, a paper her late husband founded. Because Tia Tinay "commanded" me that I couldn't leave Davao without having dinner at her place, Pat and I made time the next evening to join her and her guests, Tito Cesar and Tita Nenita Azarcon, who are also related to the Jimenezes by way of my father's sister, Tita Chul Azarcon, widow of Tito Cesar's brother, Dodoy.

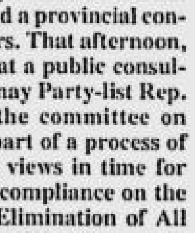
Thank you, Tia Tinay for an evening of excellent food and stimulating conversation, especially on Davao's prominent families. Congratulations, too, to the other Datu Bago awardees: Jose and Mamerta Ebro, Isabel Y. Garcia (better known as "Nanay Bebeng" to Davaoeños and famous for her restaurant as well as her good works), Isaac Robillo Sr. (who was Davao's first police chief) and Ernesto Tupas.

* * *

MAKE productive use of your Sunday. Drop by the Noritake Summer Sale at the Mayfair Center at the Magallanes Commercial Center, Makati. On sale are Noritake dinnerware and ceramic products, as well as export overrun items. Proceeds from the sale will go to help fund women's causes. Sale goes on every day up to the last weekend of March, so hurry!

Estrada is the issue

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

PEOPLE Power I made its first public appearance in 1983 at the massive funeral for Ninoy Aquino, extended its reach to the rest of the country in the snap election campaign against Ferdinand Marcos, before exploding in full splendor at Edsa in the wake of a failed military coup. People Power II, in contrast, began with small sporadic demonstrations in major cities, found a common focus in the nationwide broadcast of the impeachment of Joseph Estrada, before exploding in fury at Edsa in the wake of a failed impeachment trial.

The first people power abolished Congress and the Marcos constitution, set up a revolutionary government, wrote its own charter and called for elections only a year after. The second people power preserved Congress and the existing constitution and merely replaced the president before putting its legitimacy to the test in a pre-scheduled midterm election. Cory Aquino's candidates swept 22 of the 24 senatorial seats in the 1987 elections. Can People Power II duplicate the electoral success of People Power I in the May 2001 elections?

It can be done, but it will not be easy. In the 1987 elections, the two survivors of the Cory juggernaut were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and movie actor Joseph Estrada. Enrile made it because of his role at Edsa, whereas Estrada won out of sheer popularity. Their counterparts in the 2001 elections are Orly Mercado, who, as defense secretary, came to Edsa with the rest of the defecting military and police commanders, and Noli de Castro, a mass media figure who may win out of sheer popularity.

Thirteen senatorial seats are being contested in these elections. A 13-0 sweep is a result devoutly to be wished, but it will take a miracle to realize it. An 11-2 result for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's candidates would be a replay of the magic of people power. A 10-3 result would still be considered a sweep, while a 9-4 or an 8-5 combination might still be taken as a victory for people power. For the results to have any positive significance to the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's presidency, they should not fall below these figures.

But the more important question is not how many should win, but who should not win. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Enrile have so mocked People Power II that reelecting either one of them would be like spitting at the Lady of Peace at Edsa. We can say the same thing about Dra. Loi Estrada: making her senator would be like telling her, "Sorry we made a mistake in kicking out your husband." And though they may subtly distance themselves today from the sins of the deposed president, Dong Puno, Gringo Honasan, Ping Lacson and Angara remained so devoted to Estrada till the end that their election would most certainly be seen as a slap on people power. That leaves three prominent candidates running as adopted members of the opposition, namely, De Castro, Mercado and Santanina Rasul. People power would have no beef with them if they were running as true independents. But to speak on the same stage and to link up arms with Joseph Estrada and his friends, as they have, is hardly the conduct of an independent.

In 1987, except for Enrile and Estrada, the people repudiated all the key figures associated with the Marcos dictatorship. The Aquino administration needed that electoral confirmation because a restive military had begun to challenge its popular support and its capacity to hold power. Today, the Macapagal administration is not only secure from military threat, its constitutional legitimacy has also been unanimously affirmed by the Supreme Court. Therefore, ideally, the results of the May elections should have no bearing on its political legitimacy.

In truth, however, the results of the elections will have a decisive impact on the capacity of Ms Macapagal to govern the country in the next three years. It is inescapable that the deposed president and his allies see the May elections as a referendum on the validity of his ouster by people power and of the Supreme Court decision that constitutionalized it. Much more is at stake for Estrada in these elections than for the candidates he has endorsed. If his Puwersa ng Masa wins, the government will have difficulty prosecuting him and, even more, putting him in jail for his crimes. But if it turns out that our people have fully rejected him in their hearts, that rejection will be borne by all his proxies. In that sense, he is being unfair to his candidates for hitching his fallen star to theirs in this contest. But then he is probably making it worth their trouble by spending some of his billions to ensure their victory.

What does it all mean for the People Power II agenda? Two things basically: first, there is an ex-president to prosecute for corruption; and second, there is a crucial election to win. The trial of Estrada must proceed as quickly, as fairly and as openly as possible. We need this trial as a public record of the crimes that agitated our people so much that they had to resort to extra-constitutional means to get rid of a sitting president.

It is understandable that Estrada wants the cases against him to be preempted by the results of an election. Earlier, he sought immunity against prosecution from the Supreme Court, and the Court turned him down. Now he seeks the same effect by the political route of a popular vote.

From this perspective, Estrada is the single most important issue in these elections. If anyone is going to take up Angara's recent challenge to a meaningful debate, let the Erap proxies defend the proposition: Joseph Ejercito Estrada was a good president.

* * *

Comments are welcome at: rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Should it not be 'Puwera ang Masa' instead?

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

IF you've been watching the television coverage of the election campaign, you'd be flabbergasted at the single message ousted President Joseph Estrada's candidates have been saying: They represent the masses, that it was the rich Makati crowd which toppled their patron Estrada.

It's quite amazing to find that people like Edgardo Angara, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and former broadcast journalist Ricardo Puno—all lawyers and intellectuals who in their heart of hearts had always looked down on Estrada's intellectual capacity—have embraced the deposed president's "*para sa masa*" slogan. Why, that wasn't even Estrada's idea but of his former PR man Reli German.

There seems to have been collective amnesia about Estrada that has befallen his candidates. You wouldn't even have seen anywhere around Estrada that weird-looking, bespectacled rabble-rouser—a self-declared representative of the masses—in his two years in power. It was the likes of tycoons William Gatchalian, Dante Tan, Lucio Co, Mark Jimenez, Atong Ang who were always Estrada's companions. Even Horacio Morales, who pretended to have maintained his old Marxist "for-the-masses" bent, had been out of Estrada's power loop. Estrada's shift in his drink of choice to P60,000 per bottle French wines, is eloquently symbolic of his regime, its counterpart of Imelda's shoe collection.

Many indeed had been duped by Estrada's "*Erap para sa masa*" mantra. It turned out that under Erap, "*napuwera ang masa.*"

Take a look at Estrada's candidates, find out if ever in their entire careers, the thought of a "pro-poor" kind of ideology had ever crossed their minds. None of the billionaires among them had even undertaken the kind of token projects for the poor, such as setting up philanthropic foundations, which many Filipino tycoons have done.

Two candidates' law firms had always been the lawyers for the superrich, and never had these been involved in any pro-bono case for the poor.

One candidate in a television interview crazily boasted that views of people who had not been to Cambridge or Harvard don't count at all. Former police chief Panfilo Lacson's electoral strength owes much to his closeness to families of tycoons his men had rescued from kidnappers. Another candidate is the scion of a landed, old-rich family who all of a sudden found a crusade as her hobby only in the last two years. Two appear to be financially backed by the country's wealthiest media-based clan. And another had shown no remorse at the civilians killed because of the coup attempts he led.

It's utterly amazing, and an insult to the Filipinos' intelligence, how these people can claim that they're leading a force against the rich, that they make up the "Puwersa ng Masa." In their entire lives and careers, it's been *puwera ang masa.*

Message and values, not name recall

What is worrying though is that the People Power Coalition is so far proving amateurish in undertaking its electoral campaign. It's not been able to send a single, powerful message the masses can relate to. Its campaign strategy, obvious in each candidate's posters, seems to be merely to each his own.

Its TV ads reflect this, as Billy Esposo of the Council on Philippine Affairs explains in his e-mail to me yesterday. Esposo's views are worth looking into by the PPC strategists, not only because he's been a political observer but as he points out himself, an advertising veteran:

"Last night I caught on GMA-7 an airing of the omnibus (refers to all-candidates) commercial for the People Power Coalition's (PPC) 13-man slate. It is a deplorable waste of airtime and money if you ask a grizzled veteran like me. It takes off like an NCAA or UAAP cheerleaders' routine—obviously placing emphasis on the name recall objective for the ad. [*NCAA and UAAP refer to Philippine colleges' regular basketball tournaments.*—**RT**]

"But there is where amateurs really make their mark when they mistake an aspect of the overall objective for the whole objective. Recall is not the be-all or end-all objective of the exercise. The establishment of values behind the candidates of the PPC is of greater value and is in fact the reason they will get a 13-0—if ever they do.

"The way the commercial is made, you do not even get to remember the 13 candidates which is something the ad creator should have factored in the first place. It is easier to establish in a 30-second or a 60-second spot the values you want to associate with the PPC than the name recall of the 13 PPC bets. Values like the spirit and the vision of Edsa, good governance (versus the criminal regime previous), a respectable Senate (versus the Judas act of the infamous 11) and so forth. In other words, the commercial would have been better spent as a thematic commercial instead of a name recall commercial.

"It violates all the known principles of effective advertising that one would hear from the likes of David Ogilvy which mandates the establishment of values before one aspires to establish a brand. Here we are like a company harping on nothing but a brand name but forgetting altogether to state what the buyer is supposed to get for that brand if he bought it. Even my former students in college for advertising will not make that kind of a mistake! To say that it is the work of amateurs is to insult amateurs!

"If we are to be dragged into a name recall game, all the more we are goners. They are the better known candidates, have more money and make full use of radio which they have in their pockets. In a name recall game, we cannot hope to get a 13-0; not even a 10-3. But in a values game, that is where they are vulnerable for the kind of governance they just recently gave us. The revulsion which prompted people to stage Edsa II will make people vote 13-0 in favor of the PPC.

"If the objective is to court the young people, the NCAA/UAAP approach of the commercial is a very shallow appreciation of why the youth finally went out and joined the rest of the nation in Edsa last 16-20 January 2001. The youth will vote 13-0 not because they recall 13 names but because these 13 names of the PPC represent values they risked their life for last 16-20 January 2001."

* * *

Despite all that though, a poll by this paper's website www.inq7.net, gives reason for optimism. As of 3 p.m. yesterday, two-thirds, or 66 percent, think that at least 12 of the PPC's 13 candidates will win. Some 21 percent even think that all 13 of them will.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

THEY SAID

Beyond Estrada

"We want to prosecute the case not because we are after President Estrada as a person but because we want to elevate a certain standard of morality and decency in the government."

—Private prosecutor Dean Amado Valdez

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Comments can be sent to votersvoice@inquirer.com.ph

JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

'Senate campaign ignoring many people's issues'

AS PART of its citizen-based coverage of the senatorial campaign, the INQUIRER interviewed groups representing consumers, senior citizens, veterans, government employees, overseas Filipino workers, organized workers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples and gays. Last week, the groups that took part in the INQUIRER's focus group discussions represented students, women, urban poor, farmers, Muslims, young professionals, handicapped, clergy and laity, and environmentalists. This section is devoted entirely to what voters need to know and what their candidates for the Senate need to care about.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

'Label Franken foods'

Raul Segovia, *chair, Citizen's Alliance for Consumer Protection*

The government does not have a policy on genetically modified foods (dubbed Franken foods after Frankenstein). Many imported foods are coming into the domestic market but the government does not know what position to take. The position that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is taking reflects the requirement of the World Trade Organization that developing countries put up no restrictions on these kind of imports.

What we want as consumers is for the DTI to require importers or manufacturers to label foods. 'Are these genetically modified foods or not?' Without the labels we don't know what risks these items carry. We are concerned because these have penetrated the groceries. Even in agriculture, we are apprehensive. Genetically modified grains like rice, corn and wheat are mixed with animal feeds. Their toxic consequences on animals and humans have yet to be determined. ***JVS***

'HIV and AIDS are political issues'

Dr. Dominic Garcia, *project manager, AIDS Society of the Philippines*

Senatorial candidates must include the prevention of HIV and AIDS in their platforms and help raise public awareness on these problems during political rallies. Sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS are political issues and not simple medical issues. These are not just about condoms and safe sex.

If the spread of HIV and AIDS is not stopped, the government will be forced to increase the budget allocation for the care of persons infected with the disease instead of using the money for more productive undertaking. Aside from the strain on the budget, the country stands to suffer from lower productivity.

Among the issues that should be discussed are the need to popularize RA 8504 or the law preventing HIV/AIDs; budget allocation for HIV/AIDS campaign prevention; how to break the social stigma of persons with HIV and AIDS; and community participation in preventing the disease.

While we already have laws on HIV and AIDS prevention, these have yet to be adequately implemented. ***Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Cross-dressing without discrimination'

Oscar Atadero, *secretary general, Pro-Gay*

We don't want senatorial candidates to be patronizing toward gays. We don't want him or her to use gays as cheap entertainers in campaign sorties. When they go to the stage, especially at gay beauty contests, politicians always say gays are productive, creative and fun to be with. They are obviously pandering to our interests. But after the elections they forget about us, the 7 million Filipinos (10 percent of the population) who are gays or lesbians.

What they don't see are gays and lesbians who lack access to basic education and health care.

What are our concerns? First, we are seeking state-supported education up to college for the urban poor gay youth. Although public elementary and high school education is for free, one still has to spend for books and uniforms. And because of small family incomes, the first ones to be told to stop schooling are the gays, not the "straight" children.

Second, increased budget for health so that gays can have free medical examinations. Education programs are also needed to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Third, we are pushing for anti-discrimination legislation. *Sana nga* lawmakers will pass a law to end discrimination against gays in work places. We're asking employers not to discriminate against employees in terms of work attire. Cross-gender dressing in government offices should be allowed. ***JVS***

'Pensions below poverty line'

Amado Cabaero, *president, Philippine Association of Retired Persons*

Our top priority is to increase our very low pension. The average monthly pension is only P2,640, which is 65 percent below the poverty line.

We had talked with the management of the Social Security System (SSS) four times to plead for an increase in our monthly pension after it claimed that it had profited so many billions from its stock market investments. The SSS management never agreed beyond the 10-percent increase. So we asked that we be allowed to see the records. But after one conference, the management never met with us again.

As senior citizens, we are treated like people going around with a beggar's bowl. Many of us suffer that indignity. *Kung pwede, wag asikasuhin.*

We want a review of our benefits under the Senior Citizen's Law because implementation of the 20-percent discount on the prices of medicine, food (in restaurants) and travel is very limited.

Service is very poor especially when we buy medicines. At drugstores, they avoid us. Also, many restaurants do not give us the discount.

We want the discount raised to 30 percent because of the huge increase in the prices of medicines and basic necessities. After all the discounts are tax deductible for companies. ***JVS***

'Benefits not enough'

Ret. Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro, *chair, Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea*

Many veterans feel that their pensions are not enough to support them because prices of foodstuffs and other things have gone up. What we receive as benefits are also not enough. Veterans are those who fought in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. There are about 200,000 surviving veterans.

By law, veterans are entitled to a maximum of P5,000 per month in old age pension. One gets the old-age pension when he reaches the age of 65. Right now we are getting P4,500. We have not received the P500 increase.

The law also says that we are supposed to get an additional benefit when we reach the age of 70. At 70, one is considered technically disabled. So he is entitled to an additional P1,700 plus P500 for his surviving spouse. But there is no budget for this.

The pension is part of the budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Unfortunately, the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS), which is supposed to take care of the retirement benefits of veterans and retirees, is having its own problems. It has become rotten.

Our legislators should also look into the health programs for veterans. Right now we have the Veterans Memorial Hospital. We have free consultations, X-rays and hospitalization. Our dependents are also entitled to these benefits. At times, there is not enough money for medicines. ***Carlito Pablo***

'Restore our dignity'

Ferdinand Gaite, *secretary general, Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage)*

Senatorial candidates must address our basic demands such as a just living wage and security of tenure.

We are demanding a monthly across-the-board salary increase of P3,000.

We also demand that benefits be legislated to help us cope with the high cost of living.

The Estrada administration granted us a 10-percent pay increase but it violated the rights of tens of thousands who lost their jobs with the abolition of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau and the National Stud Farm. Others lost their jobs with the so-called streamlining of some departments.

Senators must also push for a law that will give government workers the right to strike.

Other basic concerns that senatorial candidates must address are the allocation of public funds to respond to people's needs. They must stop prioritizing debt service and military expenditures over social services.

As public servants we believe that good governance can be attained through pro-people policies and leadership by example. ***Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

'At the mercy of recruiters'

Poe Gratela, *secretary general, Migrante International*

For overseas Filipino workers, having to leave their loved ones is bad enough but having nobody to turn to when faced with a crisis in a foreign land is worse.

Everyday, about 6 to 10 OFWs are coming home in boxes. Families of the victims suspect that their loved ones died from abuses perpetrated by employers.

Ironically, this trend started shortly after the passage of Republic Act 8042 or the Migrants' Act of 1995. On top of our demands is the scrapping of this law, which has not protected the rights of overseas workers. It leaves us at the mercy of unscrupulous recruitment agencies and employers.

The government collects huge fees from applicants for overseas work but it offers very minimal services abroad.

While there are over 8 million OFWs worldwide, there are hardly any government-run mission centers that workers with problems can turn to. Consular offices and embassies are often closed on weekends when most OFWs are free.

Other major concerns of OFWs are corrupt, abusive and arrogant officials in Philippine embassies and consulates.

Senatorial candidates should act on the ratification and full implementation of the United Nation's Convention for the Protection of Migrants and the scrapping of laws perceived to be anti-migrants.

They should also work for the legalization and protection of millions of undocumented Filipinos abroad. ***Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

'Legislated wages'

Alleco R. Silverio, *public information officer, Kilusang Mayo Uno*

Candidates should present a pro-labor agenda to address such issues as depressed wages, lack of employment security, and repression of trade union and human rights.

Workers are looking for candidates willing and able to represent their interests in Congress. We want candidates who will champion the workers' cause against anti-union policies such as no-union and no-strike policy in export processing zones.

We will support candidates who are willing to go against the tide of globalization, and work for the junking of policies of liberalization, deregulation, and privatization that result in the closure of businesses and lay-off of workers.

The KMU has been pushing for a P125-wage increase; abolition of regional wage boards and the repeal of the Wage Rationalization Act of 1989 and of the anti-strike provisions in the Labor Code such as free ingress-egress and cooling off period. ***Gerald Lacuarta***

'Employment summit did not address problems'

Leody De Guzman, *chair, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino*

Contractualization, unrealistic minimum wage, and unemployment remain the top problems of the labor sector that senatorial candidates should seriously address. Of the 15 million Filipino wage earners, 14.5 million are victims of contractualization, low pay and other labor abuses.

Having a job is not enough. Workers should also have job security and fair contract bargaining agreements to ensure that their rights are protected.

The government's recent employment summit did not really address the root problems that plague the labor sector. President Arroyo wanted the labor department to focus more on job generation and not on its present primary concern of arbitrating labor disputes. This would only result in low-paying jobs. What this would produce is cheap labor that would be pliant to the interests of multi-national companies.

The senatorial campaign has failed to seriously discuss these bread and butter issues. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

'No regular jobs'

Alex Aguilar, *spokesperson, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines*

The biggest problem of Filipino workers today is the ill effects of globalization, which is manifested in labor flexibilization and casualization. Labor flexibilization is deformalizing work. A person works past the regular working hours and performs multiple tasks for the same pay. There are no regular jobs because workers are hired as contractuals and casuals. The basic right of workers to form and organize unions is also under attack.

Another problem is the lack of jobs despite the fast inflow and outflow of capital.

Some questions that senatorial candidates must answer include the following. 'What are their agenda to provide social safety nets for the workers?' By social safety nets we mean access to medical services, housing and other basic services.

'Are they in favor of reducing taxes collected by the government from workers?'

The legislative agenda we want pushed include amendments to the Labor Code, the enactment of a living wage, criminalization of labor-only contracting, and repeal of Department of Labor and Employment Order No. 10, which allows the contractualization of labor.

We also want the candidates to declare the sources of their campaign funds. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

'Foreigners dominate local fishing grounds'

Gerry Albert Corpuz, *media-relations head, Pamalakaya, a fisherfolk group*

Senatorial candidates should join fishermen in their campaign to repeal two laws that give big foreign and domestic fishing companies unchallenged dominance in local fishing grounds.

The Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act and the Fisheries Code should be amended or repealed.

The laws allow big fishing companies, including foreign ones, to trawl not just in rich fishing grounds in the high seas but also near the shoreline and in lakes.

Since 1990, the volume of fishermen's harvest from the sea has decreased by 43 percent. Because of this, their incomes have decreased by 50 to 70 percent.

These "substantial issues" are not being tackled in the senatorial campaign. What we get from the candidates is continuous mudslinging. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

'Protect ancestral lands from mining'

Sonny Serrano, *president, Central Luzon Aeta Association*

They should consider the welfare of the indigenous people and undertake steps to uplift the living condition of Filipinos, especially the Aetas, who have been suffering for a long time.

Matyline Camfili, Darwin Kimakim and Abigail Matib
members, Paggawisan Tako Am-in (Pagta) UP College Baguio

They should advance our interests as Cordillerans as well as protect our lands from mining, dams and other destructive projects. They should allot projects for the development of the Cordillera but these development schemes should be based on the interest of the indigenous peoples themselves. Cultural sensitivity must be considered in making laws and policies for the indigenous peoples of the Cordillera. They must respect the Cordillera peoples' right to self-determination.

Mary Carling, *member, Cordillera People's Alliance*

Congress should re-study the indigenous rights law because the government should respect a tribe's decisions regarding government projects. The existing law (the 1997 Indigenous People's Rights Act or IPRA) provides that communities freely give their consent to a project but it allows government or developers to negotiate a deal in order to pursue the project. That is no longer free consent because it contrives a decision from the tribe. The law must respect the tribe's first decision. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza and Daphne Marie Falag-ey, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Mamerto Panding,
bookkeeper, Kapulungan Para sa Lupang Ninuno, a federation of Mangyan organizations.

The IPRA has to be strengthened to assure us, Mangyans, of security in our ancestral lands. We should not be ejected from our land every time there is a project. The indigenous peoples, not the mining companies, should decide whether exploration could take place in their lands.

Big companies like Mindex must not be allowed to mine in our ancestral land because it will destroy the land.

We hope the government extends capital to the indigenous peoples. It should help us acquire seeds and sell our products.

We need scholarships. If we, Mangyans, get formal education, we can keep abreast of developments in the modern world. We are abused because most of us are illiterate. ***Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

RAILROADING AT BICAM

John O hit for power bill maneuver

SEN. John Osmeña is trying to ram through the throats of members of the bicameral conference committee his own version of the Omnibus Power Bill to favor the interest of some influential sectors in the industry.

This was the complaint yesterday of a multisectoral group which is opposing some provisions of the measure now pending before the conference committee of Congress.

Leo Kho, spokesman of the Bantay Kuryente Laban sa Monopolyo, said Osmeña inserted into the Senate version of the bill provisions which were neither deliberated upon in the Senate as a body nor provided for in the House version of the measure.

Osmeña's provisions, he said, will force the small power generating companies out of business and give rise to a monopoly of the big companies favored by Osmeña.

And worse, Kho said, Osmena wanted his own version of the bill so badly that he even threatened to block its passage if it does not contain his pet provisions. His provisions are contrary to the conditions imposed by foreign financial institutions before they could release some multi-million-dollar loans to the cash-strapped administration of President Macapagal Arroyo.

Kho said that the provisions Osmeña was pushing to the hilt was contained in Sections 28 and 43 (U) in the guise of de-monopolizing the power generating sector.

He said the Osmeña provisions would not only force small power generating firms and cooperatives to sell out but also legitimize the takeover of their business by the big players in the industry.

As proposed by Osmeña, Section 28 of the bill provides that the ownership of a generation company or distribution utility and their holding companies shall not exceed 15 percent of the voting shares of stock unless the company holding the shares or its controlling stockholders are already listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

But Kho said that as of now, only Meralco and probably one from Mindanao are listed in the PSE and are therefore automatically exempted from the provision.

Another Osmeña proposal, Section 43 (U), is even more damaging to the small power generating companies because that would mean their own demise.

It provides that power generation companies or distribution utilities which are not publicly listed in the PSE shall offer and sell to the public not less than 15 percent of their common shares of stocks.

This provision, Kho said, is not only unconstitutional but also arbitrary and unreasonable. In the first place, he said, it's not easy for a small power firm to list itself in the PSE.

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MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

CHINA TRAGEDY

200 feared dead in mystery blasts

SHIJIAZHUANG, China—China said a series of mystery explosions killed at least 18 people in this northern city Friday, but a human rights group said up to 200 were feared dead in the blasts.

The official Xinhua news agency said an unspecified number of explosions rocked the provincial capital of Hebei province at around 5 a.m.

The agency said the cause of the blasts was unknown but had left 18 people dead. At least one explosion was near a workers' dormitory attached to the state-owned Number Three Cotton Factory, said Xinhua.

Late Friday, the agency said top Chinese leaders were "very concerned" over the explosions.

Wang Zhongyu, secretary general of the State Council (Cabinet), toured the four explosions sites, Xinhua said.

"President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji are very concerned with the tragic explosions," Wang was quoted as saying to one of those injured in the explosions.

"I came here on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party and the State Council to reassure you that the aftermath will be properly handled."

Local police were investigating the cause of the explosions, Xinhua said.

Residents in the city around 200 km southwest of Beijing said there were four loud explosions around dawn which brought several buildings crashing to the ground.

They said the two largest blasts were at residences attached to the Number Three and Number One Cotton Factories and that the sites were quickly sealed by police. Police blocks were erected at the entrances to the city and foreign journalists were prevented access to the scene by undercover officers.

"I heard the explosion. The whole building went flat and many people were trapped inside," said a man named Zhou, who lives near the five-story residence of the Number Three factory.

Another resident, who lives 300 meters from the building, added: "It was really loud. My windows were shaking and many people nearby thought it was an earthquake."

An official at a city hospital said rescue crews had pulled out a steady stream of victims from the rubble, but declined to give further details. Officials at other hospitals refused to answer questions.

The Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said up to 200 people were killed in four explosions and that traces of the explosive TNT were found at two sites.

"They are obviously criminal explosions and the death toll could reach 200," said a statement from the center.

The center is usually the first organization to break sensitive news from around China and is usually reliable.

The statement said the residence of the Number Three factory had around 170 people in the building and that more than 12 hours after the explosion just 28 people had been rescued alive.

It said the second blast ripped through a four-story residential building near the Number One Cotton Factory, leaving around 60 people dead.

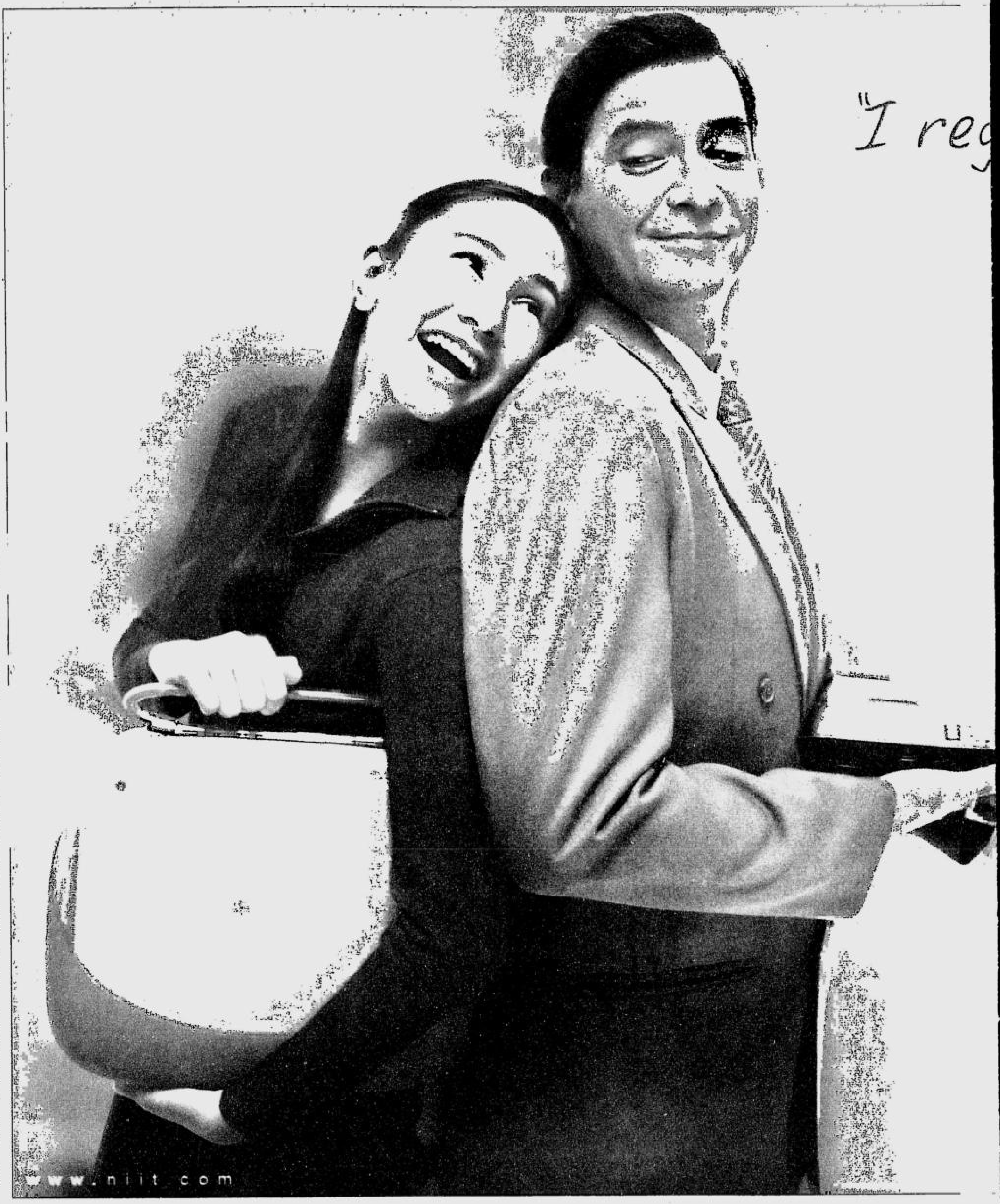
The statement said a third blast rocked a two-story residence near the Number Seven Cotton Factory and a fourth hit a residential building in Dianda Road. It gave no details of casualties in these two explosions.

An official at the public security bureau offices in the city refused to comment and said investigations were still going on.

A man who identified himself as Mr. Zhai at the Hebei provincial government denied the death toll could reach 200.

"Two hundred dead is impossible, it could be a little higher than 18 but not 200," he told AFP.

An official at the Number One Cotton Factory told AFP that only four of the 10 cotton mills in the city were functioning and that other plants had been shut down as part of China's reforms of state-owned enterprises. *AFP*



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2,000 troops deployed to protect gas field in Aceh

JAKARTA—Indonesia has deployed more than 2,000 troops to protect the huge Arun gas field in the violence-torn province of Aceh in a bid to allow Exxon Mobil to resume its oil and gas operations there.

"I have been told that more than three battalions and a cavalry unit have been deployed and tasked with safeguarding the (gas) installation," Coordinating Minister for Political, Social and Security Affairs Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said yesterday.

An Indonesian battalion is made up of at least 650 soldiers.

Exxon Mobil halted its operations in the field on March 2 on security grounds after threats from separatist rebels. The field, which exports liquefied natural gas (LNG) to clients in Japan and South Korea, is a major source of export earnings for Indonesia.

Exxon's decision has also had severe effect on other industries in the area, notably fertilizer plants, which depend on the company for raw materials.

Yudhoyono said that one likely remaining problem was the question of how to assure the safety of workers at the Arun gas field.

"To them we have offered to provide security escorts to and from their workplace and settlements," he said.

Yudhoyono said that workers in the gas field had complained of intimidation from rebels of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). *AFP*

Gunmen release hostages in B'desh

RANGAMATI, Bangladesh—Three European hostages walked out of a forest in southeastern Bangladesh on Saturday, a month after being abducted by tribal gunmen who dropped their ransom demand and accepted a government offer of amnesty, military officials said.

The two Danes and a Briton, engineers working for a Copenhagen-based construction company, were released at midnight (Manila time) after the gunmen gave up their demand for a $1.6-million ransom, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The engineers were apparently in good health, an Army officer said in a telephone interview.

Torben Mikkelsen, 48, and Nils Hulgaard, 64, from Denmark, and Tim Selby, 28, from Britain were kidnapped on Feb. 16 from a remote road in Chittagong Hill Tracts, a region of dense forests and rugged hills. The region is 340 km southeast of Dhaka, the capital.

The hostages were found along a road near an Army camp at Kanchkhali, 30 km northwest of Rangamati town, the officer said. An army helicopter was waiting near the camp to fly the freed engineers to Dhaka later in the day, he said. He refused to give details.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina feels "greatly relieved that the hostage crisis has ended peacefully," her press secretary Jawadul Karim said. Hasina was told about the release before she left for her village home in western Bangladesh to visit the grave of her father _ the nation's assassinated first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The engineers, working for a company called Kampsax, were surveying the area for the construction of a Denmark-funded highway. *AP*

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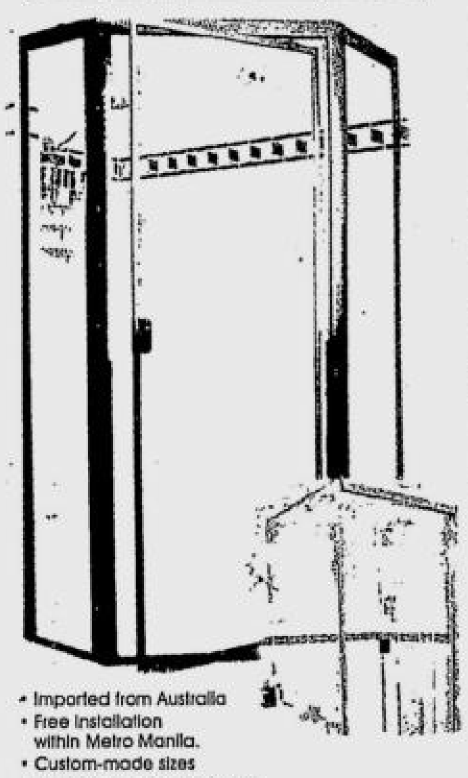

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Fighting escalates in Macedonia

BELGRADE—The Macedonian conflict reached a new peak Friday as the center of the northwestern town of Tetovo came under direct mortar fire for the first time and Albanian rebels vowed to take their fight to the whole country.

While the fighting intensified in Tetovo, just 15 km from the border of the Nato-patrolled Yugoslav province of Kosovo, Nato chief George Robertson said the alliance would not allow "a small number of extremists" to destabilize Macedonia.

Nato has intensified patrols along Kosovo's border with Macedonia in order to prevent ethnic Albanian gunmen from using Kosovo as a rear base for attacks on Macedonia, the alliance chief said.

But Robertson, speaking in Athens, said Nato had no military mandate to move into Macedonia and did not believe the Macedonian government wanted it to do so.

Nato was drawn into the conflict directly Friday when ethnic Albanian rebels opened fire on a barracks in Macedonia where German troops are stationed as part of Nato-led peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo, whose southern sector, facing Tetovo, is under German command.

Nearly half the German KFOR contingent stationed in Tetovo pulled out of the area "for security reasons," a defense ministry spokesperson in Berlin said.

"Around 400 soldiers" of the some 1,000 German troops stationed at a Macedonian Army barracks in the town were redeploying overnight Friday "to another, more secure, place near Tetovo," the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson declined to identify the Germans' new location.

The Germans came under fire from ethnic Albanian guerrillas deployed in the hills around the town, which prompted German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping to call up tanks from Prizren barracks in Kosovo as a protective measure.

Macedonian troops responded to the attack but no German soldiers took part in the exchange of fire with the rebels, the ministry said.

Concerns about the West's resolve to keep a lid on ethnic unrest in the region were underscored Thursday when Washington announced it was withdrawing more than 1,000 troops involved in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia.

UN special envoy for the Balkans Carl Bildt nevertheless travelled to Skopje on Friday to assure the Macedonian government of the international community's support.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, also in Macedonia, condemned violence by ethnic Albanians guerrillas.

"The future of Albanians, be they in Macedonia or in Kosovo, is in the development of democratic processes and not in violence, extremism and terrorism," said Fischer after a meeting with his Macedonian counterpart, Srdjan Kerim. *AFP*

Putin blames Chechen rebels for jet hijack

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin blamed Chechen rebels Friday for the hijacking of a Russian plane, which ended in a dramatic rescue by Saudi special forces, and warned of new moves to fight international terrorism.

Putin, who flew back from a Siberian holiday shortly after Saudi special forces stormed the jet in Medina—three people, including a hijacker, died—said the hostage drama highlighted the danger posed by Chechen separatism.

"This tragedy reminds all of us, in Russia as well as the international community, of what the Russian Army has to deal with in its antiterrorist operation in the north Caucasus," the Kremlin chief said in remarks broadcast on state-run television.

Earlier, Russia had called on Riyadh to hand over the two surviving hijackers after directly linking the hijack to the nearly 18-month conflict in the north Caucasus republic.

"Today it is already clear that this terrorist act in Turkey and Saudi Arabia was not the work of individuals but of Chechen terrorism," Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Avdeyev was quoted as saying by Itar-Tass.

Putin for his part suggested that the Chechen rebels had turned to hijacking because they had been defeated comprehensively by the Russian Army, which launched its intervention in the southern republic on Oct. 1, 1999.

Chechen warlords had "perfectly understood that they cannot resist Russia's armed forces out in the open," Putin said, adding that the "clever ones remain abroad, from where they organize hostile actions against Russia."

The Russian leader said he had instructed top officials to develop "an effective strategy" to prevent future hijacks by "obtaining information in advance about the actions and plans of the bandit leaders, wherever they are, in Russia or beyond its frontiers." *AFP*

RESCUE WORK REUTERS

Chinese rescuers search for survivors after a pre-dawn explosion ripped through a residential block in the north Chinese city of Shijiazhuang. A series of pre-dawn explosions destroyed four residential blocks in separate districts killing at least 18 people although a human rights group put the death toll at 200. *(See story on Page 10.)*

Farmers brace for slaughter of animals

LONDON—British farmers protested bitterly Friday against the precautionary cull of hundreds of thousands of healthy animals to halt the spread of foot-and-mouth, as the number of outbreaks rose to 264.

The government, increasingly desperate to contain the contagious livestock virus ravaging the country, insisted "safety first" slaughter was essential.

Chief veterinary officer Jim Scudamore said at least half a million animals faced being culled altogether, although farmers' leaders spoke of double that figure.

Scudamore's total also did not appear to include 100,000 sheep, which might have come into contact with infected animals in the early stages last month of the outbreak, many of which still have to be traced.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown said farmers were going through "absolute horror."

He promised to speed up identification, slaughter and disposal of infected livestock to reduce the trauma of farmers, who have complained of dead animals rotting for days.

Agriculture ministry officials said the number of confirmed outbreaks had risen to 264 from Thursday's total of 251.

Brown's preemptive cull affects all sheep and pigs within three kilometers of outbreak sites in Cumbria, northwest England, and Dumfries and Galloway, southwest Scotland, the two worst affected parts of Britain.

Government vets will step up patrols in Devon, southwest England, another cluster area of foot-and-mouth cases, to determine if similar action might be necesssary there.

However Andrew Spence, the regional coordinator for Farmers For Action in northeast England, warned of a "rural revolt." *AFP*

Damaged Brazilian oil rig continues to list

RIO DE JANEIRO—Rescue workers on Friday abandoned hope of finding survivors aboard a Brazilian offshore oil rig which threatened to collapse and sink following a series of explosions that killed at least one person and left nine others missing, said civil defense official Col. Jorge Lopes.

"Yesterday, there was still a chance of finding survivors, but today there is no such chance," Lopes said. He added that the search would continue for one week, nonetheless, to look for drowning victims.

Most of the 175 workers who operated rig P-36—located 270 km northeast of here and 150 km from Brazil's coast—have been evacuated by rescue teams that rushed to the installation following Wednesday's explosions.

One of the workers suffered severe burns and remains in critical condition.

Engineers are now worried that the damaged rig, considered the largest in the world, may soon sink.

"The rig is listing because one of its floaters is full of water," said Argemiro Pertence Neto, a spokesperson for the Petrobras Engineers' Association. "It is already listing 35 degrees, and our calculations indicate it can't list any more and remain afloat."

They also fear that during the platform's collapse underwater pipes might burst, releasing tons of crude oil into the ocean.

As many as 12 salvage ships surrounded the rig Friday, as experts plotted moves to prevent the sinking of the structure. But Neto said nobody was expected to approach the platform until it was stabilized.

The mishap could cost Petrobras, the national oil company that operated the rig, more than one billion dollars, industry sources estimate. *AFP*

Palestinian killed as anger rages over Israeli closure of territories

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian was killed by Israeli troops Friday amid fears of new turbulence in the region as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon prepared for his first trip to Washington since coming to power earlier in the month.

Israeli troops shot in the chest and killed Mohammed Jumaa Abu Oun, 20, and injured three other youths at the Karni crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip, medical officials said.

Abu Oun's death brought to 439 the number of people killed since a wave of deadly violence broke out nearly six months ago: 360 Palestinians, 13 Arab Israelis, 65 other Israelis and one German.

Witnesses said there had been no clashes taking place when the first boy, 17, was shot.

The Israeli Army said it had opened an inquiry into the initial incidents, which it said occurred when soldiers fired on a group of youths throwing rocks who approached a military post near the fortified crossing point.

At least 17 Palestinians were also injured Friday, most of them in violent clashes in Ramallah on another "day of rage" as part of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, this time with anger directed at the nearly six-month old closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The closure, which prevents Palestinians from entering Israel and limits their ability to move between Palestinian-run areas, has been tightened and eased over the months of conflict. This week, Israel relaxed some of the strict measures imposed since Sharon took office last week.

The Israeli defense ministry announced Friday that it was continuing to soften the internationally condemned closure, allowing 500 Palestinian businessmen to enter Israel.

The closure has prevented more than 100,000 Palestinians from going to jobs in Israel and has crippled the Palestinian economy, causing poverty rates to double.

The defense ministry added that crossing points between Israel and Gaza would also be allowed to operate for commercial traffic after cargo was checked by the army. The Allenby bridge border between the West Bank and Jordan would also be opened for trucks as would the Rafah border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, the defence ministry said.

The Rafah border would be opened as well for humanitarian cases.

But Palestinians have dismissed the easing as cosmetic and called it an attempt to deflect attention away from the blockade before Sharon meets US President George W. Bush next week. *AFP*

TAKEOVER RITES AP

With a bust of former Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh at the Pleiku stadium in Vietnam, a parade ushers in the 26th celebration of the communist takeover in Pleiku, March 17. Pleiku is in the country's central highlands. Ethnic minority members took part in the rites.

Vajpayee orders probe of bribery scandal

NEW DELHI—Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, invoking concerns over national security and economic stability, ordered Friday an inquiry into the bribery scandal plaguing his government.

In an address to the nation on state-run television, Vajpayee said the inquiry should be headed by a "serving or retired" Supreme Court judge and be completed "within four months."

The scandal, which broke Tuesday surrounds a video exposé of corruption in defense procurement by the website www.tehelka.com, showing senior politicians, bureaucrats and Army officials apparently taking bribes from journalists posing as arms dealers.

The affair has already forced the resignation of Defense Minister George Fernandes and prompted opposition parties to paralyze parliament with demands that the prime minister and his entire Cabinet step down.

Earlier Vajpayee's ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) rejected any suggestion that the government might resign.

"The government rules by mandate," Fernandes told reporters after a special meeting of NDA leaders.

The NDA has a mandate to rule for five years. The simple reason that some people want us out is not reason enough for the government to resign," said Fernandes, who was confirmed as NDA convenor during the meeting.

Promising to "get to the bottom" of all the allegations arising out of the exposé by tehelka.com, Vajpayee said the priority was to ensure continued morale in the armed forces and continuance of economic reforms.

"We live in a perilous time; in a perilous environment," Vajpayee said in his first public statement on the scandal.

"The morale of our valiant forces must not be allowed to suffer," he said, adding the ease with which the undercover tehelka journalists had accessed the defense procurement system showed how far the "cancer" of corruption had spread.

"The security of our country must remain inviolate. Our government and beyond that our political system must be clean and it must function to the highest standards of propriety."

While admitting that the tehelka revelations had served as "a wake up call for us all," he warned against taking all the allegations at face level. *AFP*

US jury finds hip-hop mogul not guilty

NEW YORK—Hip-hop mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs was found not guilty Friday on gun possession and bribery charges, after 22 hours of deliberation by a 12-member New York jury.

In the wake of an intensely publicized six-week trial, the jury of five whites and seven blacks found Combs not guilty on five counts stemming from a shooting incident at a New York nightclub in December 1999, in which three people were injured.

Applause and cheers erupted in the courtroom after Combs' five "not guilty" verdicts were read.

"I am at a loss . . . I am very emotional," a visibly moved Combs said outside the courtroom before he was whisked away under heavy security amid a myriad of popping flashbulbs.

"All glory to God . . . if it wasn't for God I wouldn't be able to walk out of here. I want to thank all the people of New York . . . who, when I was walking down the street, would stop me and tell me to keep my head up," said Combs, flanked by his mother and a portion of his sizeable entourage.

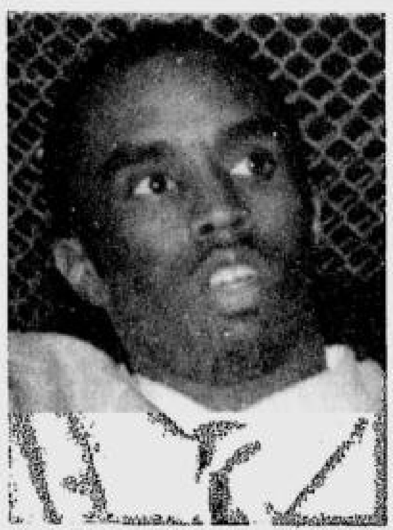
Had he been found guilty, the multimillionaire founder of Bad Boy records and the Sean John clothing line could have been sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

Combs' 19-year-old protégé Jamal "Shyne" Barrow, who admitted he did fire a gun at the tony Club New York on the night of Dec. 27, 1999, was found guilty of first-degree assault and reckless endangerment, charges that carry with them a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

Barrow was not found guilty on charges of attempted murder for the injuries suffered by three club patrons, one of whom was severely wounded in the face.

Combs' bodyguard Anthony "Wolf" Jones was also found not guilty on charges of gun possession.

Combs was accompanied by his then-girlfriend, actress and singer Jennifer Lopez, the night of the incident. Lopez was not charged and was not called to testify in the case, a decision that undoubtedly disappointed many New Yorkers. *AFP*



COMBS

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Marine captain killed

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—A Marine captain was killed while eight others were hurt Tuesday after a van was hit by a speeding bus at a blind curve along the national highway in Barangay San Pedro here. Killed was Capt. Bernardo Barnes, 43, of this town. His wife Vivian, 38, and seven others, including a 5-month-old boy, were hurt. Police said Barnes' Kia Pregio was travelling southward when it was hit by an AV Trans bus driven by Mayer Pudlao, 22. Pudlao surrendered to policemen.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Murder suspect nabbed

DUPAX DEL NORTE, Nueva Vizcaya—Police on Monday arrested a suspect in the murder of Vice Mayor Cesar Lacanilao of Alfonso Castañeda town. Donato Villacorta of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, was arrested at the town hall compound here, said Chief Insp. Narciso Verdadero, intelligence and investigation chief of the provincial police. Lacanilao was gunned down inside his house in Barangay Lublub, Alfonso Castañeda on Dec. 23 last year.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Valencia endorses lawyer

C. LAPAN CITY—Gov. Rodolfo Valencia has recommended lawyer Dante Manzo to take his place as candidate of the Liberal Party (LP) for the first congressional district of Oriental Mindoro. "Dante Manzo is a human rights lawyer, a man of competence, courage and dedication to the rule of law. I am confident that my constituents would extend him the same degree of support they have given me," said Valencia in a letter to LP President Florencio Abad. Valencia told Abad that he decided to withdraw from the race because he was against "political dynasties."

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tañada for youth listup

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada reiterated his support to the clamor of new voters for a special registration, saying their huge number could make or break efforts to push for an issue-based election and new politics. Tañada filed House Resolution No. 1914 in January urging the Commission on Elections to conduct a national day of registration for first-time voters in the May 14 elections. "It would be tragic if they were disenfranchised although there might still be time to have them registered," he said.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MILF poseur arrested

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested an alleged member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) following a complaint of extortion from a theater owner here. PO3 German Merle and PO3 Richard Abarzosa arrested Rolando Rible, 28, of Barangay Gulang-Gulang here, after Nel Marquez, cashier of Benco Cinema, said Rible handed to her a white envelope with a black ribbon and a letter demanding P100,000 from the theater owner, Ignacio Tan, as payment for "revolutionary tax" to the MILF.

Arnel Avila, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Detainee running

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Former mayor Felix Carpio of Mabitac town, who is being detained with his son in connection with the murder of a police officer, has filed his candidacy for mayor of the town. Carpio has appealed to Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. to hasten the resolution of his case and to subject him and all the witnesses to a lie-detector test "to prove, once and for all," who among them is not telling the truth. Carpio and his son Dudeo, the vice mayor of Mabitac, were tagged prime suspects in the murder of SPO4 Francisco Lanting Garcia in December last year.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Japanese survives attack

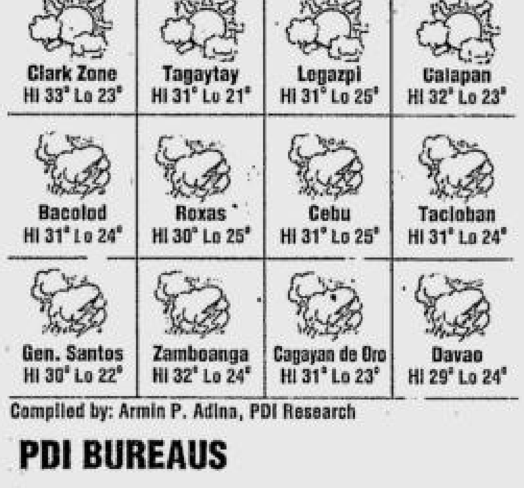
NAGA CITY—A Japanese survived an attack by unidentified armed men on Thursday night in Barangay Balogo, Pasacao, Camarines Sur. Takisi Mara, 48, married to a certain Josefa Saldivar, was shot several times by eight persons inside their yard at about 7:55 p.m. He was brought to a hospital in Naga. Police still have no lead on the identities of the attackers.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA



Metro Manila Hi 33° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 26° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 33° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone Hi 33° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 31° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 31° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 30° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 30° Lo 22°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 31° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 29° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

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Church probes Subic mess

OLONGAPO CITY—The Catholic Diocese of Iba has begun investigating issues raised by 14 priests who denounced the "political maneuverings" by Olongapo officials who, they said, instigated the two-day barricade at the Subic Bay Freeport last week.

Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez directed the Social Action Center of Zambales headed by Fr. Albert Avenido to "validate" the issues raised in the priests' manifesto of solidarity with freeport workers who were barred from work because of the barricades.

The diocese has jurisdiction over 23 parishes in Olongapo and Zambales.

On Thursday, Yñiguez met with leaders of the 20-day protest staged by workers of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and its subsidiary, Freeport Services Corp. (FSC).

The leaders sought an audience with the bishop to explain why they barricaded the gates on March 8 and 9.

The workers denied allegations that city officials led by Mayor Katherine Gordon were behind their protest action and the setting up of the barricades.

The priests condemned the protest as "a violation of (freeport workers') inherent human rights and a form of economic oppression of the working class in our society."

"It was only when we put up the barricades that negotiations progressed," the workers said during a dialogue with Yñiguez at City Hall. "We never intended to do harm to our fellow workers or to paralyze business in the freeport."

They expressed hope that those who were affected and those who denounced their barricade would understand that it was the remaining option left for them.

They said they put up the barricade as management continued to ignore many of their grievances and refused to dialogue with them, even when conciliators of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board and the Civil Service Commission had already stepped into the dispute.

Gordon said it was "unfortunate" that the priests condemned the barricade as a political ploy "without getting the side of the workers or the city government first."

"It is also unfortunate that there were political personalities who rode on the issue," she told the INQUIRER.

Other city officials said Gordon's rivals for the mayoral post "took advantage of the situation to gain political mileage at the expense of the (SBMA and FSC) workers who had legitimate grievances."

The workers removed the blockade on March 9 after signing a compromise agreement with SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo and FSC officer-in-charge Sergio Cruz.

However, it was not until three days later, on the evening of March 12, that the workers declared an end to their protest.

The workers contested certain provisions of an amicable settlement, which were clarified only on Monday night.

Residents said the protest would have dragged on were it not for the indignation rally held by groups representing various sectors of the Olongapo community on March 12. The rally was openly supported by 14 priests—nine from the Vicariate of Olongapo and five from Zambales.

In an earlier interview, Yñiguez said he was not aware of the priests' manifesto, but that he had "no objections" to it.

"The priests are more aware of what is happening in their respective localities," he said.

Msgr. Chris Cacho said the manifesto is an expression of the sentiments of their parishioners that they also share.

"It is time for us to take a stand," Cacho said. ***Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

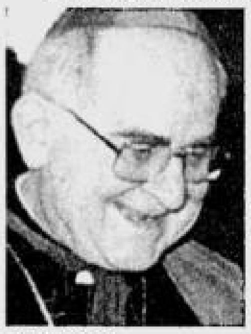
Papal Nuncio prays for upright leaders

By CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY--The election of spiritually and morally upright leaders in May and the success of peace talks with communist rebels.

These, according to Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, are what the Roman Catholic Church is praying for the Philippines.

"Nothing can be achieved with confrontation and violence," said Franco as he expressed hope that efforts by the Macapagal administration to strike a peace deal with the communists succeed.



FRANCO

Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich, who met with Franco here Thursday, also welcomed the resumption of the peace talks.

He said the success of the talks depended on whether the interest of the people is really the concern of both sides.

Franco said the Roman Catholic Church was praying for clean and honest elections in the Philippines in May.

"We have to pray and work for the election of competent, spiritual, ethical and professional leaders who are concerned about the good of the people," he said.

He reminded voters that it is wrong to sell their votes.

Franco said the voters' education campaign of the Church was a continuing process that could help ensure responsible voting.

"The Church must be concerned about the need for good citizens," he said.

Fortich said voters should attend candidates' forums and study the qualities of those they would elect into office.

He also called on the faithful to listen to what their Parish Pastoral Councils for Responsible Voting (PPCRVs) would say.

The PPCRV, he said, is helping the people make intelligent choices in the elections.

Fortich called for the early resolution of charges filed against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

A resolution of the cases before the May elections is possible, he said, because banks where the deposed leader allegedly laundered stolen wealth had already submitted evidence against Estrada.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," he said.

Greg Tingson, a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention and a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, shared the Church's concern for responsible voting.

"No one should say that his or her single vote should not matter, so not voting is no big deal. This is erroneous thinking," said Tingson, who is also a Protestant preacher.

Sin a prophet, says university

NAGA CITY—Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin was declared a prophet during the Ateneo de Naga University's confirmation of his doctorate in humanities, *honoris causa*, on Friday.

"Cardinal Sin eminently merits the name of prophet, given to our people and our land," the conferral paper for Sin's doctoral degree said.

The paper likened Sin to the Old Testament's prophets who led the people to unity and deliverance and move toward the restoration and renewal of integrity, dignity, truth, honesty and justice in "our troubled land."

It cited him for his role in People Power I, People Power II, and even during the months before the Marcos dictatorship was toppled.

"The Archbishop of Manila stood before our nation as a patriot and an authentic prophet," the citation said.

It credited Sin for having led two peaceful "revolutions" through prayer and non-violent means.

Accepting the confirmation of his degree, Sin said he was humbled by the honor.

Sin, a native of New Washington town in Aklan, became a priest of the Capiz diocese. He was called to minister the See of Manila in 1973 from where he was assigned in Jaro, Iloilo City.

Sin was described to have "humor and infectious good cheer by the sincerity and breadth of his down-to-earth humanity." But he also had "steely strength and unyielding courage."

The prelate's devotion to St. Mary was also given especial attention. It was said to have started when he was still a seminarian.

He used to write letters to Our Lady to beg her to ask her Son to heal his asthma.

Sin's devotion was exemplified by his letter to Our Lady, which, according to the story, he signed with his blood and placed under the Marian image in the chapel of the seminary.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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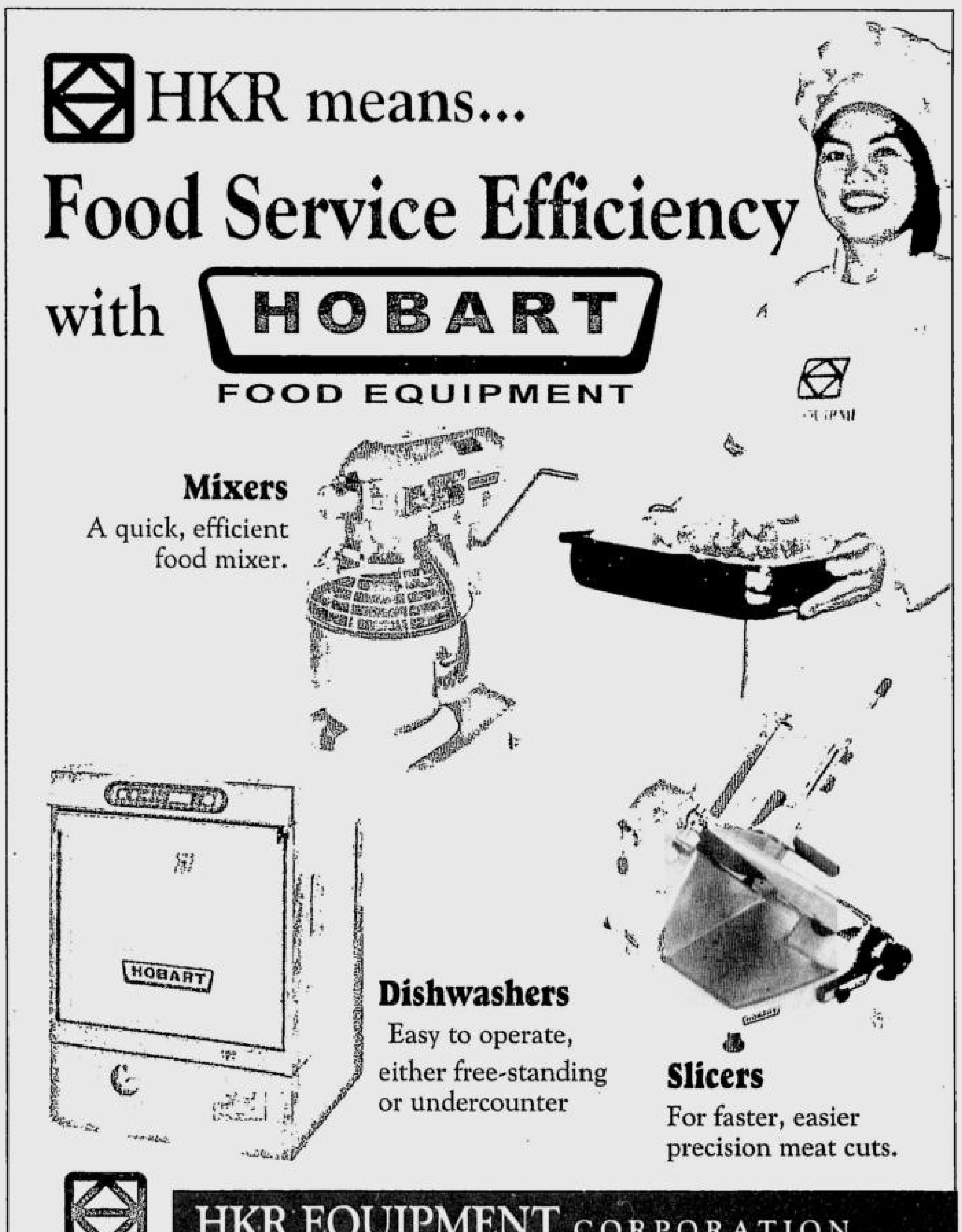
Word, Excel, Power point.	16 hrs.	2,950.00	Mar.21-28 (8-12,1-5) Mar 27-Apr 5 (Tth 8-12, 1-5)	Mar.21-30 (4-6 pm)	Mar.20-29 (8-12,1-5)
Advanced Computer Application	16 hrs.	2,950.00	Mar.27&28 (9-5)	Mar.27&28 (9-5)	Mar.21-30 (8-12,1-5)
PC. Trouble Shooting & Maintenance	20 hrs.	3,950.00	Mar. 24 &31(9-5) Apr. 2-6 (9-5)	Mar.26-31 (6-9)	Mar.26-30 (8-12,1-5)
Photoshop 5.5	8 hrs.	2,500.00	Mar.26-27 (1-5)	Mar.20-31 (4-6)	Mar.22-23,28-29 (8-5)
Consumer Electronics	40 hrs.	4,150.00	Mar.24-Apr.21 (8-5)	Mar.26-27 (6-9)	Mar.24-Apr.7 (8-5)
Public Speaking	20 hrs.	3,700.00	Apr. 2-4 (9-5)	Mar. 26-31 (4-6)	Mar. 21-23 (9-5)
Industrial Motor Design	30 hrs.	4,500.00	Mar.27-Apr. 5 (9-5)	Mar.26-Apr. 7 (6-9)	
Web PageDesign	16 hrs.	3,500.00	Mar 31-Apr. 1 (9-5)	Apr 4-5 (8-5)	Apr.2-3 (8-5)
Accounting for Non Accountant	16 hrs.	1,585.00		Mar 31-Apr 1 (9-6)	Mar 24-25 (9-5)
How to start & Manage Your Own Business	16 hrs.	1,585.00		Mar 24-25 (9-6)	Mar 31-April 1 (9-5)
Hydroponics Technology	4 hrs.	600.00	Apr 7 (9-5)	Mar 31 (1-5)	March 24 (1-5)
Catering & Fastfood Bus. Operation	16 hrs.	1,585.00			Mar 24-25 (9-5)
Basic Balloon Arts & Crafts	8 hrs.	1,585.00			Mar 24 (9-5)

OTHER SHORT COURSES ON COMPUTER APPLICATION, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



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Preventive suspension of 19 UPLB students lifted

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) has lifted the "preventive suspension" of 19 student leaders amid claims by students of persistent dormitory problems.

Chancellor Wilfredo David issued Memorandum Order No. 42, which took effect March 13, upon the recommendation of Dr. Candida Adalla, Office of Student Affairs director.

Adalla had placed the students on "preventive suspension" on March 8.

"I hereby lift your preventive suspension effective immediately without prejudice to whatever action the Student Disciplinary Tribunal may take as circumstances would warrant," David said.

Symone Donacao, University Student Council (USC) president, said Wednesday that the USC office had been opened and allowed by the administrators to function again. "Although the lifting of our 'preventive suspension' and the opening of our office are welcome news, I am still sad because our main problem still remains. This development has not really achieved anything," Donacao said.

She said the chancellor has not yet assured them that he would honor the students' agreement with the vice chancellor and OSA director in relation to the dorm controversy.

"If the chancellor (does) not recognize our appeal, we might be forced to mobilize a mass action again to dramatize our very simple demand," the student leader said.

She said the studies of hundreds of students would be affected because of their ejection from the dorm.

Role Oguis, 21, president of the Men's Dorm Association (MRH) which will be sharply affected if the administration plans materialize, said about 80 percent of the 646 dorm occupants at MRH came from poor families in various remote provinces in Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon.

"During this economic crisis and high cost of living, it would be very cruel for the administration to eject us without justifiable reasons," Oguis said. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bugkalots want 'Millennium Tribe' title

LAND TURNOVER RITES

ROMEO SANTOS

A young boy watches Tuwali villagers in Viewpoint, Banaue, Ifugao, prepare the pigs and chickens as tribal offerings during the March 8 turnover to the National Museum of a hectare of land which will be developed into a showcase village featuring a museum and a school of Ifugao living traditions.

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The Bugkalot tribesmen of Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija have a special request to authorities, which they believe, will give added incentive to their quest for further advancement.

Their request does not involve material things. What they want is for their tribe to be declared the country's "Millennium Tribe."

The title, they believe, will recognize their achievements as a "new people with upgraded standing, socially, educationally, economically and spiritually with a new vision and hope for a better future at the threshold of the 21st century of the Third Millennium."

The "lowlanders," particularly officials of government, joined the Bugkalots in their special wish.

Government officials in the executive committee of the Bugkalot Festival scheduled for April 6 in Nueva Vizcaya adopted a resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare the Bugkalots the "Millennium Tribe" of the country.

Leading the signatories are Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani, committee chair; Rosario Camma, chair of the Bugkalot Confederation; and Armando Pasiguian, president of the Bugkalot Association of Casecnan Inc.

Nineteen other representatives of various agencies signed the resolution.

The Bugkalots, also called Abacos, Ibilaos or Ilongots, are believed to be descendants of the Malays who came around 15th century. They inhabit the hinterland territories along the boundaries of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Aurora and Nueva Ecijr

The tribesmen, the resolution said, preferred their isolation for four centuries and bravely guarded their independence against outside interference.

They even resort to headhunting practice as a defense "for survival and a sign of bravery so that no foreign conquerors—be they Spanish, Americans, Japanese or the Hukbalahaps and the New People's Army—succeeded in overcoming or influencing them."

In the late 20th century, the Bugkalots made a "decisive turnaround and responded positively to challenges and opportunities placed literally at their doorsteps by government people and private entities."

"They distinguished themselves in collective and collaborative efforts to support and adopt government programs and projects to strengthen their community base and improve their quality of life," the resolution said.

Already embracing Christian values of love and forgiveness, the tribe is "ready to join mainstream society and compete with their lowland counterparts," it added.

The Bugkalots were thrust into the limelight about five years ago because of the multibillion-peso Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project.

The project, whose main feature is a 26-kilometer tunnel for the delivery of irrigation water from the Casecnan River in Nueva Vizcaya to the Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija, cut across Bugkalot territory.

Unlike other groups of people in other similar projects in the country, the tribesmen welcomed the project that proceeded as scheduled and is now about to be completed.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bets urged to tackle AIDS concerns

DAVAO CITY—Activists campaigning for the prevention of HIV and AIDS are urging local and senatorial candidates to discuss public awareness of the dreaded disease in their political rallies and other sorties.

Dr. Dominic Garcia, project manager of the AIDS Society of the Philippines (ASP), said his group had talked to a number of candidates nationwide to include HIV and AIDS concerns in their platform of government.

Garcia said no candidate had turned them down so far. But he said most of the incumbent mayors and governors they talked with often referred the matter to the health committee of the local councils.

Other aspirants for local posts were told to discuss the issue with members of their campaign staff.

"Some mayors and governors treat this as a simple health issue, when it is not," he said.

Garcia said some candidates also hesitate to discuss HIV and AIDS issues on the campaign trail for fear that the Catholic Church will withdraw support for them.

But Garcia said local executives in the cities of Iligan and Bacolod showed positive responses to their requests. Their leaders are now discussing HIV and AIDS issues at the grassroots level, he said.

Garcia said HIV/AIDS cases in the country had been growing at an alarming rate of 100 persons yearly since 1991, based on monitoring activities by the government and other AIDS prevention groups.

He said the government monitored a yearly average of only 50 cases of HIV/AIDS between 1986 and 1990.

It has monitored 1,452 persons infected with HIV and AIDS since it started surveillance operations in 1986 up to January this year.

Josie de la Cruz, ASP program officer, said that despite massive campaigns on HIV and AIDS awareness and prevention initiated both by government and non-government groups, the efforts have not been very successful.

Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM, INC.

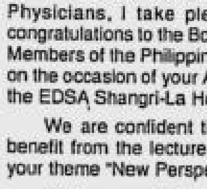
A Specialty Society of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) • A Component Society of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) • A Member of the International Society of Endocrinology (ISE)

PSEM 2001 ANNUAL CONVENTION

"New Perspectives in Endocrine Clinics and Research"

March 26 & 27, 2001 - Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City

Messages



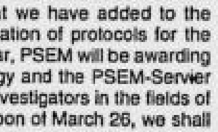
Warmest greetings from the Philippine Medical Association to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Inc. on the occasion of its Annual Convention on the theme, "New Perspectives in Endocrine Clinics and Research".

The PMA joins you heartily in the observance of your convention as it serves to underscore the important role that endocrinologists play in the efficient and effective healthcare delivery in the country. We also commend your organizing committee for drawing up a well-rounded program of activities which lay emphasis on recent advances and development in clinical research as well as the state-of-the-art management of endocrine disorders. All these preparations can only redound to the benefit of our people.

Once again, please continue to rally to our call, "PMA – Onward to a Healthy Philippines by this Third Millennium". Together, let us make this land a place of wealth in wellness.

Congratulations, and mabuhay ang Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Inc.

NENITA C. LEE TAN, M.D.
President, Philippine Medical Association



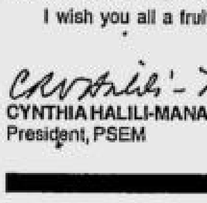
In behalf of the Board of Regents of the Philippine College of Physicians, I take pleasure in extending our greetings and congratulations to the Board of Directors, Organizing Committee and Members of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism on the occasion of your Annual Convention on March 26-27, 2001 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

We are confident that participants and delegates will greatly benefit from the lectures and discussions especially in relation to your theme "New Perspectives in Endocrine Clinics and Research".

We hope medical practitioners will not miss this golden opportunity for continuing medical education made possible through the efforts of your organization.

We wish you all the best in your present and future endeavors.

MARCELITO L. DURANTE, M.D., FPCP
President, Philippine College of Physicians



It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2001 Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Our theme for this year, "New Perspectives in Endocrine Clinics and Research", reflects two changes that we have added to the scientific program. The first is the presentation of protocols for the PSEM Research Grants. Beginning this year, PSEM will be awarding the PSEM Research Grant in Endocrinology and the PSEM-Servier Research Grant in Diabetes to deserving investigators in the fields of endocrinology and diabetes. On the afternoon of March 26, we shall listen to these investigators present their protocols for final judging.

The second innovation is the "Meet the Professor" sessions. There will be four simultaneous, ticketed sessions on March 26 and 27, 11-12 a.m. During these sessions, participants will be afforded the opportunity to interact with international and local experts and discuss with them clinical issues and problems, all in the informal setting of a small group discussion.

I wish you all a fruitful annual convention!

CRVHalili-Manabat
CYNTHIA HALILI-MANABAT, M.D., PhD
President, PSEM

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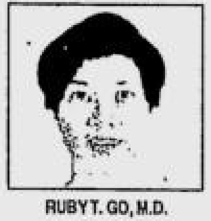

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

March 25 (Sunday)			
5:30 p.m.	ProConvention Satellite Symposium "Currents Concerns in the use of Hormone Replacement in Female and Male Climacteric"	-Dr. Dalin Tan	ORGANON PHILS., INC.
March 26 (Day 1)			
7:00 - 8:00	BREAKFAST SYMPOSIA (2 simultaneous sessions)		
	Breakfast Symposium 1 (Isla 1) "Highlights of the Trans-atlantic Intersociety Consensus (TASC) on Management of PAD and Highlights of PhilPAD Study"	-Dr. Teresa Abola	SANOFI-SYNTHELABO
	Breakfast Symposium 2 (Garden Ballroom) Perspectives in the Current Management of Osteoporosis	-Dr. Tito T. Torralba, Dr. Ruby T. Go, Dr. Antonio Tanchuling	AVENTIS PHARMA, INC
8:00 -	Registration		
8:30 - 8:45	Opening Ceremonies	-Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco Chair, Scientific Committee PSEM	
	National Anthem		
	Invocation	-Dr. Joselynna Añel-Quimpo, PSEM Director	
	Cordial Message	-Dr. Nenita C. Lee Tan, PMA President	
	Welcome Remarks	-Dr. Cynthia Halili-Manabat, PSEM President	
	PLENARY LECTURE (Supported by GlaxoSmithKline) Chair Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco		
8:45 - 9:30	A Pathophysiologic Approach to the Epidemiology of Type 2 Diabetes	-Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto (USA)	
	THYROIDOLOGY (Supported by Merck, Inc.) Chair Dr. Joselynna Añel-Quimpo		
9:30 - 10:00	Iodine Supplementation: Benefits Outweigh Risks	-Dr. Francois Delange (Belgium)	
10:00 - 10:30	Pregnancy and Autoimmune Thyroid Diseases	-Dr. Daniel Glinoer (Belgium)	
10:30 - 10:45	Open Forum		
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 - 12:00	Meet the Professor Sessions		
	Session 1 (Boracay 1) Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes	-Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto (USA)	
	Session 2 (Boracay 2) Pediatric Thyroidology	-Dr. Francois Delange (Belgium)	
	"Newborn Screening for Congenital Hypothyroidism in the Philippines"	-Dr. Carmelita F. Domingo	
	Session 3 (Balanes 1) The Thyroid and the Heart	-Dr. Arie Berghout (Netherlands)	
	Session 4 (Balanes 2) Steroid-Induced Osteoporosis	-Dr. Ma. Teresa Plata-Que	
12:00 - 2:00	LUNCH SYMPOSIA (2 simultaneous sessions)		
	Lunch Symposium 1 (Garden Ballroom) Targeting Insulin Resistance : Rosiglitazone/ Redefining Type 2 Diabetes	-Dr. Wilfred Fujimoto (USA)	GLAXOSMITHKLINE
	Lunch Symposium 2 (Isla 1) To Stimulate or not to Stimulate the Beta Cell: "The Role of Modified Release Sulfonylurea"	-Dr. Ruby T. Go	SERVIER PHILIPPINES, INC.
	PRESENTATION AND JUDGING OF RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS Chair Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco		
2:00 - 2:45	PSEM Research Grant		
2:45 - 3:15	PSEM - Servier Diabetes Research Grant		
3:15 - 3:30	Coffee Break		
	CALCIUM METABOLISM (Supported by Merck Sharp and Dohme) Chair Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis		
3:30 - 4:00	New Strategies in the Prevention & Treatment of Osteoporosis	- Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan	
4:00 - 4:30	Hypercalcemia of Malignancy	-Dr. Ruby T. Go	
4:30 - 4:45	OPEN FORUM		
5:00 - 6:00	Business Meeting and Awarding of Certificates of Appreciation		
6:00 - 8:00	DINNER SYMPOSIA (2 simultaneous sessions)		
	Dinner Symposium 1 (Garden Ballroom) Restoring Early Insulin Secretion in Type 2 Diabetes Prevents Mealtime Glucose Spikes	-Dr. Leon Litwak (Argentina)	NOVARTIS HEALTHCARE
	Dinner Symposium 2 (Isla 1) Combination Therapy in Type 2 Diabetes: Insulin plus Glimepiride	-Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando	AVENTIS PHARMA, INC.
8:30 -	FELLOWSHIP NIGHT		AVENTIS PHARMA, INC.
March 27 (Day 2)			
7:00 - 8:00	BREAKFAST SYMPOSIA (2 simultaneous sessions)		
	Breakfast Symposium 1 (Garden Ballroom) Diabetes Atherosclerosis Intervention Study Results	-Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan	LABORATOIRES FOURNIER
	Breakfast Symposium 2 (Isla 1) Insulin Analogs: Implications for the Management of Diabetes	-Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang	ELI LILLY (PHILS.), INC.
	PITUITARY, ADRENALS AND REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY Chair Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang		
8:30 - 8:50	Approach to a Patient with Hyperprolactinemia	-Dr. Laura Trajano-Acampado	
8:50 - 9:10	Steroid Use and Abuse	-Dr. Roberto C. Mirasol	
9:10 - 9:30	Hormonal Replacement Therapy	-Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca	
9:30 - 9:45	Open Forum		
9:45 - 10:00	Coffee Break		
	NUTRITION AND CRITICAL ILLNESS (Supported by Nestle Philippines) Chair Dr. Leticia D. Buenaluz		
10:00 - 10:20	Endocrine Responses in Critical Illness	-Dr. Cynthia Halili-Manabat	
10:20 - 10:40	Nutrition Management in the Hospitalized Patient	-Dr. Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr.	
10:40 - 11:00	Open Forum		
11:00 - 12:00	Meet the Professor Sessions		
	Session 5 (Boracay 1) Thyrotoxicosis and Pregnancy	-Dr. Daniel Glinoer (Belgium)	
	Session 6 (Boracay 2) Current Management of Type 1 Diabetes in Children & Adults	-Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy -Dr. Sioksoan Cua	
	Session 7 (Balanes 1) Hyponatremia & Diabetes Insipidus	-Dr. Cynthia Chua-Ho	
	Session 8 (Balanes 2) Challenging Pituitary Cases: Case-Based Approach	-Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang	
12:00 - 2:00	LUNCH SYMPOSIA (2 simultaneous sessions)		
	Lunch Symposium 1 (Garden Ballroom) Medical Management of Hyperthyroidism	-Dr. Arie Berghout (Netherlands)	ORGANON PHILIPPINES, INC.
	Lunch Symposium 2 (Isla 1) Diabetes, Dyslipidemia and Atherosclerosis	-Dr. Mark Cooper (Australia)	MERCK SHARP & DOHME
	DIABETES, LIPIDS and OBESITY (Supported by GlaxoSmithKline & Merck Sharp and Dohme) Chair Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy		
2:00 - 2:45	Diabetic Retinopathy and Diabetic Nephropathy: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Options	-Dr. Joselynna Añel-Quimpo	
2:45 - 3:30	Role of Renin-Angiotensin System in Diabetic Complications	-Dr. Mark Cooper (Australia)	
3:30 - 3:45	Open Forum		
3:45 - 4:00	Awarding of winners for the PSEM Research Grant in Endocrinology and PSEM-Servier Research Grant in Diabetes / Oath Taking and Induction of 2001 PSEM Officers		
4:00 -	Coffee Break		

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INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

Misuari and Salamat: 33 years after Jabidah

FORMER comrades Salamat Hashim and Nur Misuari meet in Camp Abubakar in 1999.

GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

BY CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS

HISTORY would have taken a different turn for the Moro people in Mindanao in the mid-1970s were it not for the differences between two young men, then in their 30s, who stirred the revolutionary spirit of the Moro youth through the Moro National Liberation Front.

Nur Misuari, MNLF chair, recalled during the 26th anniversary celebration of the MNLF in Sulu on March 18, 1994 that he and his comrades were forced to drop their bid for independence in favor of autonomy upon the representation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The OIC brokered the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the MNLF that led to the signing of the Tripoli Agreement of 1976.

"It was a bitter pill to swallow," said Misuari of the acceptance of autonomy. But they were faced with no choice because they depended on a number of OIC countries for military and financial support.

Little has been said about what transpired within the MNLF on the period of negotiations. But something vital did.

Territorial question

The MNLF vice chair, Salamat Hashim, says he did not agree with Misuari's agreeing to negotiate within the framework of the Philippine Constitution. He did not like Misuari's idea of including areas that are not Moro-dominated in the negotiations because "if we look at the territory covered by the Tripoli Agreement, it was not practical because it covered areas no longer dominated by the Bangsamoro."

Hashim wanted "to cover only the areas where the Bangsamoro people were still a majority."

"I wanted to be practical so there will be no reason why the Philippine government would not agree, no reason why the settlers from Luzon and Visayas would not agree. We didn't want to cover them, not because we did not want them to be part of us but because we wanted them to be free. We wanted them to join us if they want to. If they didn't want to join us, let them be," he told the INQUIRER in an interview in his base in Camp Abubakar, Maguindanao, on April 15 last year.

Hashim recalled that comrades in Mindanao supported him, but those in Tripoli, Libya, where the agreement was being hammered out, "were Misuari's friends so his idea prevailed."

"Something could have been achieved," said Hashim, who wanted only the following areas covered: "Maguindanao because there is no question about the dominance, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, some towns in Lanao del Norte, North Cotabato, like Pikit and Kabacan, Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato."

Independence bid

He didn't want autonomy for these areas but independence.

"But, of course, at that time our idea was still subject to negotiations. I was insisting to them to let us look at the offer of government and if it can offer us something, which we believe can solve the problem of our people, let us try it.

"But my idea was not to sign a final agreement with the Philippine government but to try whatever offer there was, to try whether the solution was workable. Only then would we sign the final agreement. What is the use of signing an agreement that is not viable like the Tripoli Agreement? It is what you would call useless," he said.

That major difference caused the split within the MNLF, an organization that reckons its founding to March 18, 1968 in memory of the Moro youth who died that day in the "Jabidah Massacre" on Corregidor Island.

"From that time in 1976, I already started organizing the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front), but the organization was finalized in 1977 and it was officially declared in 1978."

It was not called Moro Islamic Liberation Front then, but the "New Leadership of the MNLF." It was known by that name from 1978 to 1981, "but when we felt there was some sort of confusion, we changed the name into Moro Islamic Liberation Front."

Hashim says the split with Misuari was "not bitter."

Tactical split

"Our friendship was maintained, everything was maintained. For our part, we called it a tactical split, but I do not know on the part of the MNLF if it considered it a tactical split," he said.

Misuari signed a Final Peace Agreement (FPA) with the government on Sept. 2, 1996, an agreement that the MILF refused to recognize. Misuari's dream of "expanded autonomy" was to cover all the autonomy areas listed in the Tripoli Agreement of 1976.

The FPA, like the Tripoli Agreement, was brokered by the OIC.

Misuari and Hashim would lock in a brotherly embrace over two decades since their split, in Hashim's office in Abubakar on March 16, 1999.

Misuari, already governor of the four-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, visited Hashim in his camp but said he did not go there as a government official but as a "brother."

Two other meetings in Abubakar were later held between Misuari and Hashim. What they talked about, they kept to themselves.

Today, the two leaders, already nearing 60, continue to dream of their "homeland" although their approaches to realize that dream have differed.

Hashim's MILF has agreed to resuming peace talks with the new administration. The peace talks between government and the MILF began with exploratory talks in August 1996, a month before Misuari signed the FPA and became ARMM governor.

The talks with the MILF collapsed when then President Joseph Estrada declared his "all-out war" policy on March 21 last year.

Misuari was recently appointed special envoy to the OIC, now comprising 56 nations. The MNLF, which Misuari still chairs, holds an observer status in the OIC.

The MILF, which initially did not want to have anything to do with the OIC, last year approached the organization in Kuala Lumpur during a meeting of foreign ministers. It has since batted for OIC participation in the resumption of talks.

How the 1996 peace pact with the MNLF can be dovetailed with the peace process with the MILF is a challenge that the new administration must face.

Whether a "final political settlement" can be reached remains a question.

Iligan: From 'Industrial City' to tourism haven

BY BOBBY TIMONERA
Iligan City

NOW fast becoming the "Former Industrial City of the South" with the closure of its giant manufacturing plants, Iligan City is focusing on its other claim as the "City of Majestic Waterfalls" to attract tourists and keep its economy afloat.

Today, Iligan will launch its Tourism Triangle Development Zone, with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon as guest of honor.

The "triangle" refers to three contiguous barangays—Maria Cristina, Buruun and Ditucalan—in the southwestern part, which is blessed with natural and man-made attractions, such as waterfalls, cool springs, beaches, industrial plants and museums.

Maria Cristina has the famous Maria Cristina Falls; Ditucalan, the equally famous Tinago Falls; while Buruun has the accessible Mimbalut Falls, the Timoga cool springs and swimming pools, the Maze Park and Resort, the beaches and the Macaraeg-Macapagal Ancestral House, where President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo spent part of her childhood.

Buruun also hosts the Maria Cristina Chemical Industries and Mabuhay Vinyl Corp., which has a beautiful lagoon overlooking the Iligan Bay.

The sprawling National Power Corp. complex, which includes three power plants, a well-designed Mindanao regional office and a spruced up residential compound, straddles Maria Cristina and Ditucalan.

Aside from swimming, waterfall viewing and other outdoor activities, the Tourism Triangle intends to offer river trekking, beach volleyball, water polo, white water rafting and many more.

Agnes Clerigo-Maingat, head of the City Tourism Promotions Office, said a convention center was being planned within the triangle, to rise on a two-hectare lot donated by the Macapagal family in the Timoga area.

Her office also intends to train establishment owners and community leaders on tourism.

Industrial City no more

Benny Badelles, chair of the City Tourism Council, noted that the economic slowdown brought about by the closure of National Steel Corp. (NSC) in 1999 had affected other industries, "down to the market vendors and jeepney drivers."

A cement plant in Iligan was also closed down shortly after. The Jacinto-owned Mindanao Steel Corp. in neighboring Luga-it, Misamis Oriental followed suit.

Maingat pointed out that Iligan could not expect to expand its industrial base anymore, noting that its mainly mountainous terrain does not have enough flat areas to accommodate more industries.

Iligan, she said, had the tourism potentials all along but these remained untapped as its economy relied heavily on the manufacturing industries.

The city is known for its two dozen waterfalls, multi-chambered caves, cool springs and many other natural attractions, Maingat said.

In fact, tour operators in neighboring Cagayan de Oro City even bring their clients to Iligan, 88 kilometers away, she said. But they have to concentrate for the moment on the three barangays where infrastructure facilities are already intact and some degree of development has been made.

TINAGO Falls in Barangay Ditucalan in Iligan City.

BOBBY TIMONERA

For instance, of the two dozen waterfalls, the three most accessible are the Mimbalut, Maria Cristina and Tinago. Many of the waterfalls are in the forests, including Limunsodan, which is probably the highest in the country at 870 feet.

With Iligan's dwindling finances and apparent neglect of the tourism industry (the tourism office has a budget of less than P1 million yearly), Maingat said her office had to devise creative means to come up with projects.

Volunteerism, Gordon-style

For the Tourism Triangle Development Zone, Maingat said the spirit of volunteerism would be activated among the local residents to drum up support—an approach learned from Gordon, the person credited for the success of the Subic Bay freeport.

"We need to have the residents involved. That way, they will help ensure cleanliness in the area. They will see to it that street lamps don't get stoned. They will help secure the tourists," Maingat stressed.

Maingat's office also recently designated Iliganons active in civic activities to become tourism volunteers, or "TourVos," to support the City Tourism Council.

She said it wanted the area declared a "tourism development triangle" so that high-density housing projects would no longer be built there and a better garbage collection system could be implemented.

This would also mean that the waters in the waterfalls and rivers would no longer be diverted for household and industrial use. (Maria Cristina Falls is now seldom seen in its full grandeur as the Napocor diverted its waters to run a hydroelectric plant).

Other agencies are helping, too.

Architect Gil Balondo, head of the City Planning and Development Office, said efforts were being made to declare Ditucalan a watershed area so that development could be checked.

Disadvantages

It will not be easy though for Iligan's tourism efforts to bear fruit, local tourism advocates acknowledge.

For one, it has no airport of its own and only a few passenger ships are going to and from the city.

An airport is found in neighboring Balo-i town in Lanao del Norte, but it does not accommodate commercial flights. The nearest functional airport is in Cagayan de Oro, one-and-a-half hours travel by car.

Maingat does not consider this a problem. She said it takes longer for a person to go to Quezon City from the airport in Parañaque City. She said an Iligan tourism booth might be put up at the Cagayan de Oro airport, or aggressive marketing could be initiated in Manila and other big cities, or even through the Internet.

Although the peace and order situation in Iligan is relatively stable, it has somehow been considered a troubled spot because of violence that often erupts in the neighboring towns in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Further, Iligan is home to many journalists who make Iligan as their dateline when filing stories on violence in Lanao.

"We need to talk to the embassies to lift the ban on tourist travel to Iligan," Maingat said.

Test product

The Tourism Triangle will face the first test of its campaign when it hosts the Summer Youth Camp late next month. Members of the Sangguniang Kabataan from all over the country will attend.

The participants will be billeted at the five-hectare Maze Park and Resort, which has a number of swimming pools and cottages. Some participants will be billeted in cottages; others, in tents.

They will be brought to the tourist attractions and industries in the area and will hear lectures on the environment, sustainable development and survival techniques.

"We want to show them that there's a place like this where they can enjoy the beauty of nature and learn sustainable development at the same time," Maingat said.

THIS CANDIDATE tells a story of a little boy who asks him why he cried at the impeachment trial. Gimmick or not, it works every time for reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon shown here packing 'em in Cebu City.

PPC: New politics, old gimmicks

(From page A1)

A sign on the back of candidate Ralph Recto's black Expedition brags: "Mayor Vi loves Sen. Ralph Recto." Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan's handout calendar, on the other hand, shows him beaming beside Cuneta, who arrived to a riotous welcome at a PPC proclamation rally in Cebu City.

Named after People Power II, which drove former movie actor Joseph Estrada from the presidency, the five-party coalition has tried to portray its candidates as the exact opposites of *trapos* (traditional politicians).

"New politics" is the slogan that the Macapagal administration has chosen to differentiate the coalition from the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa which fields Estrada's allies.

Staying for stars

But the past 30 days of campaigning have seen the PPC candidates, especially the neophytes, adopting old campaign tricks or creating their own to get the voters' attention.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo, who regularly campaigns for the PPC, has fallen into the habit of invoking the name of stars. In a rally in Makati and Calamba, she introduced Recto as Vilma's husband, and Pangilinan as Sharon's.

Actress Via Veloso and other so-called "sexy stars" have appeared regularly at the PPC rallies. At a recent rally in Manila, Recto sashayed with Veloso on stage before he delivered his campaign spiel.

A few weeks ago, the emcee at a rally near the Sta. Ana Racetrack in Makati urged the lean crowd to stay because "we have more entertainers coming," including Gary Valenciano, Bituin Escalante, the Maneuvers and Jeremiah. Other singers included Pops Fernandez and Jamie Rivera, who sang the "official" People Power II hymn.

In the background

Solita "Winnie" Monsod and Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, the only women on the PPC slate and both first-time candidates, have realized how hard it is to communicate issues to a star-struck crowd.

When Pangilinan and Recto arrive at rallies, "we fade into the background," Chato said good-naturedly during a PPC sortie in Bulacan.

But "when the crowd asks for Sharon, I say, 'you have Shato here,'" said Chato, a tax lawyer who served as commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

She became popular for singing anti-Estrada songs in the days leading to Estrada's departure from Malacañang on Jan. 20. But asked why she has not revived her singing prowess on the campaign trail, she said: "I want to talk about issues."

Monsod, former Neda chief and UP economics professor, has easily adjusted to the campaign by using her experience as host of the popular TV show "Debate with Mare at Pare."

She has clicked with a trick of holding impromptu debates with the crowd during rallies, and audiences have enthusiastically responded.

At a Makati rally, she asked the men and the women to separately shout "People Power" to determine the "dominant sex." The crowd happily obliged, and the moment ended in laughter when the men were overpowered.

What to do with Erap

Arroyo, lion of the House prosecution panel during Estrada's aborted impeachment trial at the Senate, admitted he was at a loss during the first month of the campaign.

His stage fright visible, the Makati congressman could not find a constant topic to interest the crowd. "I couldn't find the right mix. But once I found it, I stuck to it," Arroyo said, explaining why he was constantly changing his speeches.

Arroyo seems to have found his topic, one of his favorites: the issue of "what do we do with Erap?"

He gives his crowd alternatives—jail him or exile him. And he is amazed that he sometimes gets an unenthusiastic response, even silence, when he proposes to jail Estrada.

But "I don't think it shows Erap is still popular," he said. "It has to do with Filipinos being (sympathetic)."

Power of humor

The power of humor makes former health secretary, Sen. Juan Flavier, easily the most effective PPC candidate. People listen and laugh when he talks, especially when the 4'11" candidate jokes about his height.

Like Flavier, Arroyo has proven to be one of the most popular administration candidates.

Unlike other neophytes in a national campaign, Arroyo has the advantage of the television exposure he got at the impeachment trial, which has propelled him to the second top spot of the latest Social Weather Stations survey.

Former Speaker Manuel Villar, once dubbed the wealthiest congressman, has his resources and organizational skills working his own brand of magic on the campaign trail.

In a rally in Bulacan, Villar upstaged the other candidates and even the President when a 30-second fireworks display erupted as the President called out his name. He has produced the biggest PPC rally—in Las Piñas—so far.

He also has the most number of posters and campaign vehicles, and even has truckloads of body-painted dancers and drummers to boot.

"I'm an 'organization man,' so it comes as second nature to me to be organized," said Villar, who is considered one of the heroes of the impeachment drama for sending the impeachment articles to the Senate couched in a prayer.

Children to rescue

Anti-*trapo* activists in Northern Luzon, who are campaigning for Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada's senatorial bid, plan to distance him from the "show biz campaign trail," Tañada's son said in Baguio City on Friday.

Wigberto "Toby" Tañada Jr. said he had started touring the provinces to develop a more "substantive and issues-oriented campaign" for his father, along with other children of PPC candidates who did not "make the grade" in the recent survey.

Toby said he may soon hook up with Raymond Pagdanganan, son of former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, and Trina Monsod, daughter of Solita Monsod, for a unified second-generation PPC campaign.

Tañada, Monsod, Pagdanganan, Herrera and Chato were the PPC candidates who failed to land in the winning column of the recent SWS survey.

Toby said coalition organizers have already decided to funnel more resources into the campaign caravans of their colleagues who trailed in the survey.

He said the Tañada network of anti-*trapo* activists is overhauling its campaign methods to address the issue.

Platforms ignored

A Tañada adviser said the group recognized the potential problems of a "show biz campaign," although its negative impact has not yet reached the provinces. The adviser said one such impact is the inability to relay substantive development platforms to the provinces.

"Tañada's real strength is in his impulse for consultation and for activist legislation. He stands consistently on the principles of *pakikialam at pakikilahok* (intercession and intervention)," he said.

But he stressed that none of the PPC candidates' children have been complaining about the coalition's methods.

He said many were amused by news reports of Tañada gamely dancing with movie stars and rationalizing their new laid-back campaign with the motherhood phrase: "*Para sa bayan* (For the country)."

Toby admitted that the campaign had been unable yet to flesh out a series of regional platforms, although he did not blame the PPC's "show business" method for the oversight.

Teaching courage

Some of the veterans in the PPC appeal to the emotions and the humility of the Filipino.

Rep. Ernesto Herrera teaches the audience courage in the face of adversity, citing his achievements despite his long battle with polio, which has bound him to crutches.

"He asked the audience to wave their hands in solidarity with him because he could not go down to shake their hands. My God! That was terrific," Kashiwahara said.

Another survey topnotcher, Sen. Franklin Drilon, who was ousted as Senate President for demanding Estrada's resignation, has found a "cute" way of appealing to voters.

Drilon regularly narrates the story of how a child asked him if he was the Frank Drilon who cried the night Estrada's trial collapsed.

"Why were you crying when you are such a big man?" the child asked him.

"That was effective because Pinoys are very humble. They like people who are humble and so that's Frank's line," Kashiwahara said.

More magic

Popular Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., one of the first politicians to bolt the Estrada coalition, draws from his late father's name recall. Soft-spoken and down-to-earth, Magsaysay takes pains to make his audiences understand the important role of information technology in economic progress.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III has lived up to his reputation as an independent. He enjoys the enduring magic of the Osmeña name and the power of the electronic media, where he has strong connections.

Though he is a member of PDP-Laban, which is not included in the PPC, Osmeña was deemed a sure winner and was included in the ticket. But he hardly shows up at PPC rallies except in Cebu, his bailiwick.

Ping as stuntman?

Although some candidates willingly resort to singing and dancing to woo voters, ex-top cop and opposition senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson shudders at the thought.

"*Diyan ako patay. Kung yan ang basehan sa election, taas na'ng dalawang kamay ko* (That's what will kill me. If that's the basis for winning the election, I surrender)," the stern-faced Lacson told reporters in Dumaguete City.

"*Siguro mag-sirko-sirko na lang ako* (Maybe I can do some stunts instead)," he said in jest, smiling for the first time during the one-hour press conference.

The former chief of the Philippine National Police said singing or dancing diminishes the prestige of candidates.

"You don't sing and dance when you're in the Senate," he said, although campaign manager Lito Banayo laughed when Lacson was reminded of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta's infamous jig on the Senate floor during Estrada's impeachment trial.

Lacson is one of the five opposition senatorial candidates who made it to the Magic 13 in the SWS survey. ***With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Alex Pal and Tonton Antogop, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Miriam: Let's Cha-cha to bring Estrada back

(From page A1)

tional amendments, *babaguhin natin ang Saligang Batas. Ibabalik natin si Pangulong* Estrada *sa* Malacañang (We'll fight for it in Metro Manila. We'll undo what happened. If I get reelected to the Senate, I as chair of the committee on constitutional amendments will change the Constitution. We'll bring President Estrada back to Malacañang)."

Santiago and the deposed president are more than political allies. He is also her *compadre*, being the baptismal godfather of her twin daughters.

She also said that once reelected she would call for a "referendum" to determine if the people still considered Estrada the president.

Swift reaction

The reaction from senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition (PPC) campaigning in Davao City was swift.

"*Talagang mukhang hilong-talilong na yata iyang kausap natin. Biruin mo ipapa-amenda niya ang batas para maibalik ang dating pangulo* (She's really in a tizzy. Can you beat that—she'll have the law amended to bring Estrada back)," lawyer Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan told reporters after a press conference of the PPC candidates at The Apo View Hotel.

Pangilinan said he would have not believed that Santiago made such a statement until he saw it on television.

PPC candidates Joker Arroyo and Wigberto Tañada had equally harsh words for Santiago, who was among the 11 senator-judges who voted to suppress potentially damning evidence against Estrada at his impeachment trial.

"As usual, she is in dreamland, she is in fantasyland, she is in I-do-not-know-land, Disneyland," Arroyo said.

He also said Santiago's avowed plan was impossible to implement despite her being a "constitutional expert."

Tañada said Santiago could be detached from reality.

He pointed out that a number of opposition candidates had even distanced themselves from the PnM for fear of losing votes in the May 14 elections.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, national campaign manager of the PPC, said Estrada could no longer get his post back given the Supreme Court's unanimous decision affirming Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the legitimate President of the country.

Execution

At a PnM rally Thursday night in Lucena City, Santiago declared that she would have the "rich people of Makati" executed if they failed to pass an exam on constitutional law.

Speaking in Filipino, she said that if she were president, she would throw the rich people of Makati in jail, and require them to read the Bible and the Constitution.

And then, she said, having taught constitutional law at the University of the Philippines, she would administer to them an exam on the subject.

"*At pag bumagsak sila, ipapapatay ko silang lahat* (If they flunk it, I'll have them all executed)," she declared.

Santiago also told the members of her audience that their vote for "Erap's ticket" would mean that they were opposed to the outcome of Edsa II.

"This is not an ordinary election. This is in effect a referendum if you agree with what the rich did to Estrada," she said in Taglish.

"No comment," a smiling Estrada later said of Santiago's mention of a referendum. ***Reports from Martin P. Marfil, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Hostage major's wife all set for big date

(From page A1)

Cielo says there is always food in the refrigerator, in case the one they have been waiting for comes home hungry.

"We don't need to do anything unusual for his homecoming. All Noel wants, whenever he comes home, is to see the house and his daughter clean. He's easy to please," she says.

"It's been like that," she recalls. "He would call to say he's coming home, but we never know what time. But we have to make sure that there's food (ready) for him. Chicken or *adobo* would be fine, or his favorite spaghetti."

And juice. If there's no juice, she says, he considers it "a big sin."

To be able to share such simple moments with Noel again would be their greatest joy, says Cielo.

First glimpse

Recently, the NPA guerrillas holding Noel released pictures of him through the ABS-CBN newscast, giving mother and daughter a first glimpse of the Army intelligence officer since he was abducted in Laguna.

The photos were reportedly taken on Feb. 28.

"His hair's so long, I couldn't believe it at first," says Jenina, whom her father fondly calls "Daddy's little angel."

"It's even longer than mine. And he was carrying a cane, he looked like a hermit," she says.

Unlike his unfortunate fellow captive, Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin, who died on March 8 allegedly from blood loss hours after a supposed chance encounter between military and rebel troops in Quezon, Buan looked fine enough, if a little old and thin.

"He may have suffered physically, but I can tell from his smile that they have not broken his spirit," Cielo says.

Mother and daughter refuse to entertain thoughts that Buan could by some cruel twist of fate, end up like Martin. They say only that God's love will not allow it.

Cielo says Noel will surely have to undergo debriefing from the military within 24 hours of his release.

After that, she says, he would have all the time in the world to catch up on life with his wife and daughter.

The family plans to take a two-month vacation, far from the prying eyes of the public and the demands of work, to make up for lost time.

"I think we deserve it," Cielo says. "It's been two years. I'm sure he has a lot of stories to tell, and I have even more stories to tell him—about the people I've met, whom I never imagined in my life I would ever know up close and personal, the difficulties I've met in pushing for his release."

She says it will be "a healing process."

"*Aba*, it's not a joke—what I've gone through for him, the hurt that he caused us when he was gone," she says.

Gifts

Noel's gifts, for all the missed occasions of the past 20 months, are stacked in a box.

There are about five pairs of shoes—a pair for running, another for golf, two of leather and a pair of sandals—as well as shirts and denim jeans.

The gifts that stand out are cloth material for a *barong* and formal pants, which, Jenina says, are clear proof of their resolve to have her father leave the field and take up office work.

Cielo says that losing Noel for such a long time, at times not knowing if he was still alive, has made her seriously consider confining him to "safe" activities in the military.

She admits that the issue will entail "serious discussion" in the household, and that as always in their 13-year marriage, Noel will have the last word.

It is Jenina—who, Cielo says, is the only one who might be able to convince Noel to listen—is more resolute: her Dad should do office work and should not go out in the field again.

Except for that long overdue trip to the amusement park Enchanted Kingdom.

"He still owes me that ride," said the child, speaking of the thrilling Space Shuttle.

April 18

Noel's release is expected on or before April 18, or nine days before the start of formal peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello told reporters at yesterday's weekly press forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City.

The police and military, as well as the NDF, have issued orders for a ceasefire in Southern Tagalog to facilitate the release.

The captive will be released to members of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who will examine him before turning him over to the humanitarian and peace mission composed of Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela, and Philippine Independent Church Bishop Tomas Millamena.

Noel will then be received by his family.

According to Bello, the government's estimate is that the release will be done before the expected arrival of an NDF delegation from its base in the Netherlands.

The delegation, to be led by chief NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni and his wife Connie, is arriving to attend on April 18 a peace solidarity conference organized by non-governmental organizations, Bello said.

He said this delegation was also the NDF's response to the government's offer that Jose Ma. Sison and other communist leaders come home, even only for the formal start of the peace talks.

Ex-newsman and NDF member Antonio Zumel may also join the delegation, he said.

Peace talks

Bello clarified that President Macapagal-Arroyo had not rejected the NDF proposal that the peace talks be conducted in a foreign country.

He said the President had forwarded the matter to the Cabinet's Cluster E, which deals with security matters, for further study.

Bello also said he saw nothing wrong with holding the talks in a foreign venue. He dismissed fears that the NDF would use the holding of talks overseas as an opportunity to claim belligerency status.

"In fairness to them, we've been talking for six years but we've always agreed not to discuss that. It is clear to them that the government would not give them that status," he said.

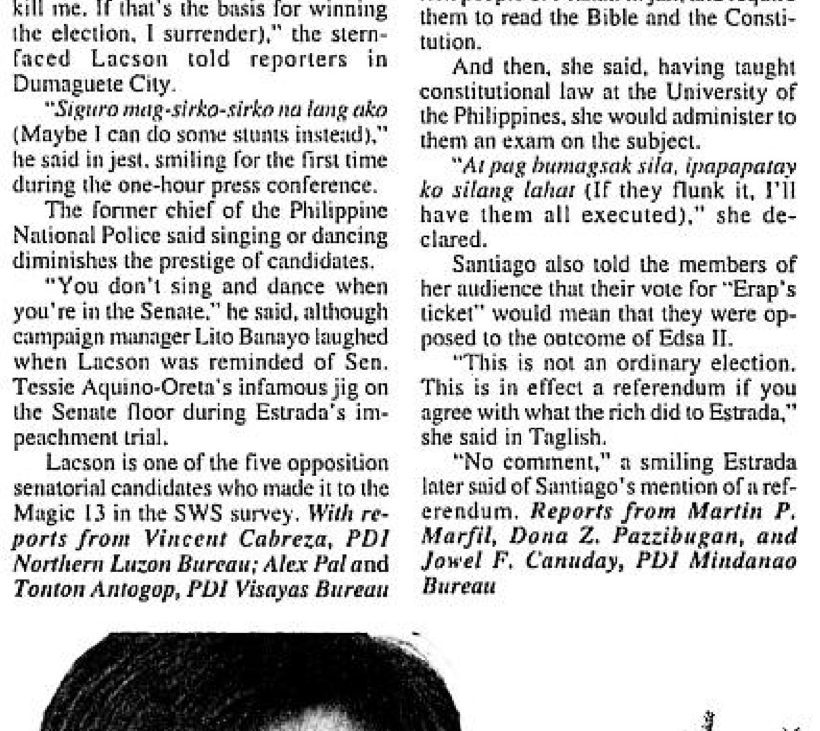
Bello noted that previous talks had been held in other countries and proved to be productive.

"There is no reason to deviate from what has been happening for the past six years. The talks have run smoothly," he said.

"If the President allows talks overseas, it would probably be in Hong Kong or any Asian country. Or maybe a country near the Netherlands," he added.

The two panels are also trying to agree on other issues before the talks start.

These include respect for 10 previous agreements between the government and the NDF; the reinstatement of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees; and proposed confidence-building measures.



CIELO BUAN: His bed is made, according to the way my husband taught me.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Swiss to probe Irene

(From page A1)

the last two years, but he refused to name them to avoid alerting the Marcoses.

"There are more Marcos assets in Switzerland, but they're definitely not worth $13 billion as reported," Daniel said.

He also did not say where the accounts were kept but said they were not in Credit Suisse, Bank of Switzerland and Union Bank of Switzerland, where the Marcoses had previously held accounts.

Philippine Embassy officials in Germany have yet to communicate the results of their meeting with German authorities to the PCGG, which is studying how it can invoke the Imac to get information for the agency's own investigation.

Sarmiento said that the Swiss authorities would not have to wait for action from the PCGG to start their own probe since the two governments' inquiries would be independent of each other.

"What's important is that we help each other in uncovering these things. We all want to recover the ill-gotten wealth. It (belongs to) the Filipinos and it should be returned to them," he said.

'No choice'

Malacañang is aware that the PCGG needs its nod to ask the Swiss Federal Council to create a body of inquiry similar to the Philippine Senate's blue ribbon committee to look into Marcos funds in Swiss banks.

"The problem of the PCGG is that they need the sovereign backing of the state" to elevate the agency's investigation to the level of the Swiss legislature, Corona said.

"We have no choice but to go after (the money), so we have to give them the green light," he said.

"Now we're back on track," Corona said of the government's renewed commitment to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Corona, who is also Ms Macapagal's chief of staff, said the government would use all its powers and resources to try to finally recover the money believed to be stashed abroad.

Dialogue

Sarmiento said the PCGG was also interested in asking Philippine Embassy officials in Switzerland to seek a dialogue with representatives of the international auditing firm Price Waterhouse Coopers regarding an independent report showing that Irene's "885931" account in UBS did exist but was closed in 1999.

The firm, which was commissioned by Swiss authorities to conduct an independent inquiry into Irene's assets, concluded in October last year that the deposits amounted to only CHF 20 million. The account was closed in 1999, according to the report, which was submitted to the PCGG last December.

Daniel said the PCGG hoped that any newly recovered Marcos funds could form part of the government's forfeiture case against the family. The case is now under appeal by the Marcoses after the Sandiganbayan awarded $632 million in escrow funds to the government.

Supporting Jacobi

In Davao City, senatorial candidate Solita "Winnie" Monsod urged the government to give "full support" to Jacobi, who also exposed the Aranetas' alleged money-laundering attempt.

"If there is anybody who is totally expert about this (the Marcos wealth), it is Jacobi," Monsod told local reporters.

"I think we should give Jacobi a freer hand (in the investigation) and a little bit more support. The guy has been fighting to dig up this account since 1997," she said.

Monsod said the government would not have to hire Jacobi on a retainers basis but could provide him with whatever references and information he would need in the hunt for the Marcoses' hidden wealth.

In the end, she said, the government could give Jacobi a share of any money he would recover, in the form of a bounty.

She also said the while the announced appointment of lawyer Haydee Yorac as PCGG chair was a welcome development that would bring back credibility to the anti-graft body, there was still a need to really clean up the agency.

'Embarrassing'

In Mati, Davao Oriental, Rep. Ernesto Herrera, another senatorial bet (PPC), also welcomed Yorac's appointment, saying she was "very competent and her integrity is unquestioned."

But Herrera also told the INQUIRER that it was "really very embarrassing that foreign investigators, not the PCGG, discovered more details about Marcos' hidden wealth."

Corona noted that efforts to go after the Marcos loot "cooled down" under the former administration of Joseph Estrada, a friend of the Marcos family.

He said the recovery of the alleged stolen wealth was among the demands of Filipinos who staged two bloodless uprisings.

"That ill-gotten wealth belongs to the Filipino people. We have to go after that. We will incur the ire of those who supported us in Edsa I and Edsa II if we don't pursue the cases," he said.

He added: "Whether we like it or not, we are mandated by law to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses."

"The PCGG was put up specifically for the sole purpose of going after the Marcoses," he explained.

With reports from Jowel F. Canuday and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Luli : Not your usual . . .

(From page A1)

counter with the rest of the passengers recently, she unwittingly exuded a kind of sophistication that some politicians and past "presidential" kin could only fake or pay lip service to.

The Georgetown University alumna showed how resolutely she had chosen to remain low-key during an interview with the INQUIRER at the Presidential Residence yesterday morning.

She said she had been recently offered a chance to host her own TV program—a media vehicle that would put her in the same mold with former presidents' children like Kris Aquino, Cristy Ramos Jalasco, and San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

"I said 'no, thank you.' I'm not for TV. They can do that with anybody else, so why does it have to be me?" she wondered.

"My elder brother Mikee is the show biz guy in the family so you should concentrate on him, he's really the one into public life (among the Arroyo siblings)," Luli added.

Her academic background, however, indicate that she has tools to easily break into the media profession.

Back in college, she was the editor in chief of The Guidon, the student publication of the Ateneo de Manila University, where she finished AB Management Economics, up there in the Dean's List, in 1992.

She produced news and feature articles as an intern-correspondent for Manila Times in 1990 and 1991; wrote corporate articles when she was with Ayala Land's public affairs department in 1992-93.

She also logged enough writing and editing experience with Europe Magazine and Konrad Adenuer Foundation (Manila), and in the Georgetown U's faculty publication Blue & Gray.

But by the time her mother was Vice President in 1998, Luli's career path veered from a possible high-exposure job in journalism or public relations to a relatively low-key job in the field of information technology.

She is now a director at the Foundation for Information Technology, Education and Development, whose general mission is "to make sure that the Philippines has an environment conducive to technopreneurs."

Chaired by Roberto Romulo, former foreign secretary and currently a presidential adviser on international competitiveness, FIT-ED is into "policy advocacy" helping the local private sector, particularly small- and medium-enterprises, thrive in the midst of the so-called IT revolution.

The foundation had also seen Luli handling projects that train public school teachers in maximizing the benefits of the Internet and other computer applications.

Why her immersion in IT?

"When I graduated from my masters (in foreign service) in Georgetown in 1996, and at the time I was already seeing the trend or the increasing importance of information technology, and I felt that it is going to be something global. So when I went back here, first I worked in Apec (1996 summit), campaigned for my mother (1998), and then afterwards I was offered a job by this foundation and I felt that it fit what I wanted to do," she said.

Despite her new status as a Malacañang tenant, she said she doesn't see herself going out of the normal sphere of her work and her circle at work.

"The nice thing about my mother is that she does not demand us to work for her, especially in her office. We continue with whatever career we want," she said.

And so her career choices widened even further when she passed the highly competitive foreign service exams last year.

Out of more than 3,000 applicants, only Luli, one male journalist, and a female DFA employee made it. While President Macapagal-Arroyo had already signed the appointment papers of the two successful examinees, Luli's remain pending.

"OK *lang*," she candidly said. "Actually, I don't have to be in government to work on international affairs."

With absolutely no plans to enter politics, Luli said she would rather be appreciated not just for being the "grandchild of a former president, or the daughter of the current president . . . but (for) my work, which I do diligently."

"*Nahahatak lang kami* (the children) with what they (our parents) have accomplished. I don't know where you get that curiosity about the First Family. If you look in other countries like the Netherlands, they never know them (children)."

Such public "curiosity" may be worth it in the case of royal families "where the future leaders will come from. *Pero Royal Family ba kami?*"

And it must be Luli's journalistic sense at work when she said: "Personally, I think after all of you have had your fun with me, when you finally get bored with me, okay *na*, I can now resume my normal life."

And a normal life for her means going out with close friends after work (they watched a ballet performance at Republic of Malate the night before this interview).

She is still the type who engages in "girl talk"—although it's sometimes "*nakakahiya* (embarrassing)" especially with a presidential guard hovering by.

"It's not that I discourage it, but we (my friends) don't really get to talk about politics when we meet, but about our jobs—'will I get the promotion?' And also 'cheap' things, the men we like . . ."

Luli thanked the INQUIRER for not asking her about her love life.

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Topnotch Filipino golfers get big boost from CAP

ANGELO QUE and Mario Siodina represent two generations of topnotch golfers. While Que is basking in his amateur prime, Siodina is already playing in the senior ranks after an illustrious career as a touring professional.

Players with a knack for hardwork in pursuit of excellence like Que and Siodina are set to become the prime beneficiaries of a no-nonsense blueprint for development being implemented by College Assurance Plan.

CAP's major involvement in the new Philippine Professional Tour gives senior pros like Siodina a chance for further growth. A special fund has been set aside for the CAP Senior Challenge where the 50-something are playing in an event of their own.

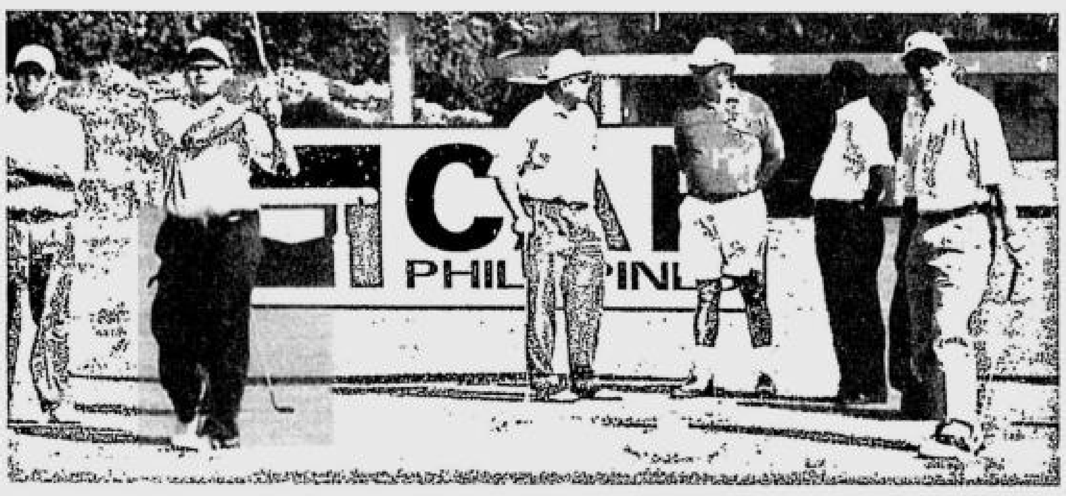
And for a player like Siodina who wants to make it to US Senior PGA Tour someday, the timing was not less than perfect.

The vision of CAP, a group of companies in the business of ensuring education for future generation where lawyer Enrique Sobrepeña is at the helm as chair and CEO, for amateur development is even more comprehensive.

Drawing inspiration from the successes of such Filipino stars as Frankie Miñoza, Cassius Casas, Gerald Rosales in the Asian Tour and Dorothy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales, CAP now wants to encourage as many young local talents as possible to follow their footsteps.

CAP has even tied up with the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club for the continuous training of Que and other promising young talents like Cookie La'O, Jerome Delariarte, Raymund Sangil and Artemio Murakami with no less than veteran national team coach Bong Lopez guiding them.

They are also assured of a year-round exposure to highly-competitive events like the NGAP circuit, the PAL Interclub, Fil-Am, among others. Chances are, they will also be sent to major competitions abroad if they are to hurdle the eliminations for the Putra Cup and the Southeast Asian Games this year.



REIGNING national amateur champion Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte and Juami Rocha work on their iron shots as CAP chair and CEO lawyer Enrique Sobrepeña confer with Jeric Hechanova and Shean Bedi in the foreground.

Annika sparkles

AS ANNIKA Sorenstam went on a record-breaking rampage topped by the lowest round in the 51-year LPGA history of 13-under-par 59, Dorothy Joy Delasin fired a 68 to break into the Top 10 and Jenny Rosales easily made the cut with a 69 yesterday in the Standard Register Ping tournament in Phoenix, Arizona.

In an almost magical effort, Sorenstam birdied the first eight holes of the back nine where she started to tie the LPGA's lowest nine-hole effort of 28 and went on to erect an eight-shot lead over Kris Tschetter.

Delasin knocked in four birdies in the back nine to gain a share of 10th spot with a 137 aggregate at the Moon Valley Country Club.

Rosales, in 62nd spot at the start of the day, jumped to a share of 38th at 141 after her five-birdie round.

Aside from setting the new 9- and 18-hole records, Sorenstam also broke the LPGA Tour's 36-hole record by three shots, finishing two rounds at 124 (-20). The records for 54- and 72 holes of 23-under and 26-under are also in danger of being surpassed by the Swede.

In New Delhi, Filipino Gerald Rosales fired a 69 to stay just two strokes behind the four leaders in the second round of the $300,000 Wills Indian Open. *Jong Arcano*

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LET'S GET INTO SPORTS

Per DOH-BFAD Permit #0008 s. 2001

AL Mendoza's "Spectator" and Edwin Villanueva's "One Winner" will not appear today due to space limitations.

Sunday SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Sampras, Agassi advance

INDIAN WELLS, California—Pete Sampras has tuned up his game on the hard courts at Indian Wells. "I finally got a rhythm going out there. It felt good," Sampras said after beating Patrick Rafter 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 Friday in one of the best matches so far in the Tennis Masters Series tournament. Andre Agassi also won his quarterfinal match, posting a 6-2, 6-1 win over Nicolas Lapentti in just 59 minutes.

All quiet on BAP front–Tiny

By June Navarro

CALM after the storm.

This was how Quintellano "Tiny" Literal described the state of affairs in the Basketball Association of the Philippines a day after the leadership row in amateur basketball came to an abrupt end.

Literal, assuming leadership status following Freddie Jalasco's decision to forego the BAP presidency Thursday night, said his association will retain the slate of officers elected in January with the exception of the chairman, a position held by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat since 1995.

"It's just an honorary position. One can't find it anywhere in the BAP charter," said Literal, who has lawyer Boni Alentajan as chief legal counsel and executive vice president.

He will concur with his secretary general Graham Lim, Jaime Dichaves (VP Luzon), Juan Aquino (VP Visayas), lawyer Ruben Abarquez (VP Mindanao) and Christian Tan (treasurer) in running the show in the BAP.

He also expressed gratitude on Jalasco's decision, saying "he's man enough to step down and face the music."

Jalasco, whose whereabouts remain unknown, stepped down from the BAP presidency after four months of power struggle to pave the way for Literal's ascension.

POC president Celso Dayrit said the POC Executive Board has yet to take up all the issues concerning the recent development when it meets on Wednesday. The sports body had earlier backed Jalasco.

Literal also bared broadcasting giant ABS-CBN threw its support to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association men's championship slated April 2-7.

Aside from selecting the venue, he said ABS-CBN will shoulder P1.5 million of the estimated P3.5-P4 million needed to bankroll the event.

Another cool million will come from the coffers of the PSC once a financial request reaches the PSC board, Chairman Carlos Tuason said Friday.

"And definitely, the MBA-backed nationals will represent the country in the Seaba," Literal added.

NBA RESULTS

Indiana 103, Atlanta 97; Sacramento 100, Philadelphia 79; LA Lakers 101, Washington 89; Cleveland 114, Charlotte 109; Orlando 103, Vancouver 99; Seattle 90, Chicago 80; San Antonio 95, New Jersey 86; Boston 87, Denver 83; Portland 90, Utah 87; LA Clippers 94, Golden State 76. *AFP*

SMB gains q'finals

GAMES TODAY (Ynares Center)
4:15 p.m.—Shell vs Ginebra
6:30 p.m.—Mobiline vs Sta. Lucia

By Marc Reyes

BAGO CITY—San Miguel Beer used the hometown warmth accorded to it in brushing off Alaska Milk, 85-75, last night in a PBA All Filipino Cup road game here.

Playing before a large crowd rooting for them, the Beermen broke away from the second quarter and never looked back to secure their quarterfinal stint at 7-3.

San Miguel Beer made up for its humiliating loss to Shell last Wednesday by handing Alaska's fifth loss in 10 games right at the bailiwick of SMB big boss Danding Cojuangco who was among the approximately 7,000 spectators.

The Beermen also regained solo leadership aside from the fact that it boosted their morale after beating the defending champion.

While Alaska was always good coming from behind, SMB proved to be even better, maintaining the lead (which went up to as many as 17 points) up to the very end.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 85—Seigle 31, Ildefonso 19, Racela 12, Victoria 9, Belasco 7, Abuda 4, Duat 4, Gamboa 0.

ALASKA 75—Peek 26, Arigo 16, Duremdes 10, Ordonio 8, Allado 5, Gahol 4, Santos 4, Reyes 2, Ticzon 0.

Quarterscores: 12-17, 39-29, 59-48, 85-75.

RP, Lhuillier arrange final

GAMES TODAY *(Aquino Stadium, San Pablo City)*
2:00 p.m.— (For 3rd place) Laguna vs Joonang
3:30 p.m.—RP vs Cebu-Lhuillier

CALAMBA, Laguna—The Philippine men's team exploited its deeper roster to beat Cebu-Lhuillier, 94-74, yesterday and arrange a title showdown with its victim in the 1st Bert Lina-Jam Mercado Battle of Champions at the Aquino Stadium in San Pablo City.

Hardly missing the services of Romel Adducul, the Nationals drew double digit scoring from five players to notch their third win in four starts, tying the Jewelers, who struggled without reinforcement Bobby Parks at the end of elimination round.

The Nationals and the Jewelers dispute the crown at 3:30 p.m. today at the same venue with Adducul still a doubtful starter owing to an eye injury and Parks likely to be allowed to play by the Shell management.

Joonang University subdued Wang's Ball Club, 78-73, in the rough second game to finish with a 2-2 card. The South Koreans meet the Laguna Lakers (2-2) for third place at 2 p.m. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTSWATCH

Upsets rock NCAA tilt

NEW YORK— The underdogs made more noise in the NCAA Tournament on Friday as Gonzaga, Temple, Butler and Indiana State posted first-round wins over favored opponents. Thursday's first full day of opening-round matches produced five serious upsets and the theme continued on Friday as Virginia, Texas, Wake Forest and Oklahoma were knocked out. Gonzaga (25-6), the 12th seeds in the South Region, nipped fifth-seeded Virginia 86-85 on Casey Calvary's basket with nine seconds to go at The Pyramid in Memphis. Indiana State, seeded 13th in the South, followed Gonzaga out onto the floor and recorded their first NCAA Tournament win in 22 years, using 22 points by Matt Renn and five overtime points from Kelyn Block to oust fourth-seeded Oklahoma 70-68.

7th Ucap derby slated

NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) top guns Nene Araneta and Jun Santiago will invade Mandaluyong Coliseum for the first time, via the "7th Ucap/Bumble Bee Balbina/Roadmaster Cobra Balbina 6-Cock Derby" this Tuesday and Thursday (March 20 and 22). Sponsor is Sagupaan Super Feeds. More than 40 well-known cockers are seeing action in this event to be hosted by noted businessman-sportsman Danding Cojuangco and Balbina Group team manager Pete Rodriguez. Submission of weights is tomorrow, Monday, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. For inquiries, please contact 747-4797; 5340-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

'Sabong' show today

TUKAAN, the popular weekly tele-*sabong* show, will be shown today on IBC Channel 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cockfight fans have reason to celebrate since the show, hosted by noted gamefowl enthusiast Emoy Gorgonia and the lovely Josh Canonizado, is extended to one hour since last week. "We believe there are so many topics about cockfighting and gamefowl breeding that have yet to be discussed, that's we are extending the show to a full hour. *Sabungeros* are yearning for more and more knowledge about the so called gentleman's sport," Gorgonia said. One of the show's highly awaited segments is the fight analysis anchored by top cocker Boy Diaz of Arnis Master II fame.

Shell karting fires off

ANOTHER action-packed weekend awaits karting fans when the second leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships gets under way today at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite. Jess Garcia, Allan Uy, Angelo Barreto, Mandy Borja, Victor yap and Tyson Sy set out as the favorites in their respective categories in this prestigious, nine-port series organized by Carmona Circuit Phils., and sponsored by Bridgestone, Nokia, Coca-Cola, Demvel's Enterprises, Eastway Racing and Match Box/Hot Wheels. Garcia, who topped the kickoff leg on March 4, is favored anew over Jess Cabalinan, Mon Tanjutco, Pepon Marave and Manuel Mayo in the centerpiece Formula Super A category.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By MR. 999

Race 1—1. Hostile Witness 2. Mr. Lucas 3. Defense Minister 4. Premiere Treasure
Race 2—1. Bemedalled Ruler 2. Lovely Luigi 3. Busanda Strike
Race 3—1. Hot Number 2. Triple Joy 3. Mighty Dragon 4. Roman Leader
Race 4—1. Maria Nevada 2. Native Talent 3. Marvelous Jay 4. Raise A Fire
Race 5—1. Lucky Gambit 2. Walang Hanggan 3. Prestige 4. Poblacion
Race 6—1. Ysabela 2. Good Grace 3. Master Ijhay
Race 7—1. Sham Sham 2. Race for Gold 3. Spoiler 4. Pasikatera
Race 8—1. Marissa's Diane 2. Aringkingking 3. Snub Nose
Race 9—1. Pro Bono 2. Magara 3. Ocean Friend 4. Full Blast
Race 10—1. District Three 2. Time and Again 3. Dragon Strike
Race 11—1. Peititoner 2. Grand Prize 3. Simpatika 4. Arigato
Race 12—1. Aly Sam 2. Mrs. Big 3. Musika
Race 13—1. Snake Dancer 2. Strong Alphonse 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Storm Princess

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NBI clears Agarao A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Law needs change –Ozone victims A22

Woman trader shot in high noon ambush

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

MARY YU'S 3-year-old child escaped the hail of bullets. Yu did not.

Now Yu is fighting for her life after three unidentified men ambushed her at high noon yesterday on a busy Quezon City road.

Yu, 30, a Filipino-Chinese businesswoman of Banaue Street, Quezon City, has a bullet in the neck and is in critical condition at the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City, SPO3 Rolly Noguera said.

According to police, Yu was parking her Tamaraw FX (WMD-391) in front of the Night Venue 2000 Videoke Bar and Restaurant on Scout Tobias and Timog Avenue in Quezon City when the suspects struck at 12:10 p.m. yesterday.

She was believed to be on her way to a health and fitness club when she was ambushed.

"She was backing into the parking space when a red (Mitsubishi L-300) van suddenly appeared in front of her car," Noguera said, quoting a witness.

When the side doors of the Mitsubishi van (UCG-942) opened, three men opened fire, Noguera said.

Yu's 3-year-old child Ribinson was sitting in the front passenger seat but was lucky enough to survive the attack unhurt, police said.

The red van quickly drove off after the attack. Yu and her child were taken to the hospital where doctors are now working on the businesswoman.

Police are having a hard time investigating the ambush because members of Yu family were still too shocked to talk about the attack, Noguera said.

"We could not talk for long to the victim's husband, Robert, because he was still in shock over what happened to Mary," he said.

But Robert told police he did not know his wife was going to Timog yesterday.

The witness told authorities that Yu usually went to the health club on weekends, Noguera said.

Dentist denies story of 'rape victim'

A DENTIST who was charged with rape allegedly after he failed to marry his supposed victim said the woman's accusations were "malicious and manufactured."

— "I vehemently deny her accusations," dentist Salvador Pecson said in a statement he brought to the Inquirer.

Pecson said he read "with astonishment" the March 15 Metro story, "Patient cries rape after dentist fails to show up at wedding," which mentioned him as the accused.

The 20-year-old woman, who was not named in the March 15 report but whom Pecson identified in his statement, earlier told Pasig police she would not have filed rape charges against him if he had fulfilled his promise to marry her after she first accused him of rape on Jan. 25.

Pecson said the woman lives near his dental clinic in Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City.

"Sometime last year," he narrated, "(she) went to my clinic for dental treatment. She came back later for follow-up treatment after which there was no need for further treatment but just the same she went there for 'friendly' visits."

Pecson said he has an associate in the clinic, "who is my fiancee."

He said his accuser made her "friendly visits" when it was his turn to man the clinic and his girlfriend was out. "This went on for sometime until her intimacy with me developed," he said but he did not elaborate.

He said that early last January, "I intentionally avoided her to avoid a misunderstanding with my fiancee."

"Then all hell broke loose," he said, "when (his accuser) went to our clinic and started shouting invectives at my fiancee." He said his accuser even described his girlfriend as "just a mistress."

Pecson said the woman, accompanied by her unidentified brother, returned to the clinic the next morning. "She shouted and in a very belligerent mode threatened to file a complaint of rape against me," he said.

He said that "in order to silence her and to avoid being embarrassed," he went to a nearby police station to report the incident and have it entered in the police blotter.

He said the woman also "scratched the face and neck of my fiancee." His girlfriend filed a

DENTIST/A22

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SUNDAY, March 18 912-8983

DIE, YOU RAPIST RANDY HORMILLOSA

A woman tries to strangle through prison cell bars Ruel Jacobe, 32, whom she accused of making her a "sex slave" for a week. She said Jacobe befriended her through text messages and then abducted her when she agreed to meet him in person.

Pandacan oil depot a powder keg–firemen

BY JEROME ANING

AN association of fire fighters wants the government to do something about the oil depot in Pandacan, Manila, which it called a "virtual powder keg" that could blow up anytime and incinerate people by the thousands within seconds.

In a news conference on Thursday, leaders of the Manila-based United Firefighters Association of the Philippines said they are alarmed that congested residential areas, hospitals, offices, recreation centers and churches in Pandacan and nearby areas are "oblivious of the inherent dangers" posed by the depot.

They said an accident similar to that one that struck a liquefied petroleum gas manufacturing plant in Mexico City in 1984 could be repeated in the Pandacan depot.

In the Mexican incident, the LPG accidentally ignited and caused a "liquid-boiling, expanding vapor explosion" which engulfed nearby communities, killing instantly 300 people and injuring 7,000 others, the group said.

More than 300 people later died of burns, hundreds were maimed for life and about 65,000 people were left homeless, the group said.

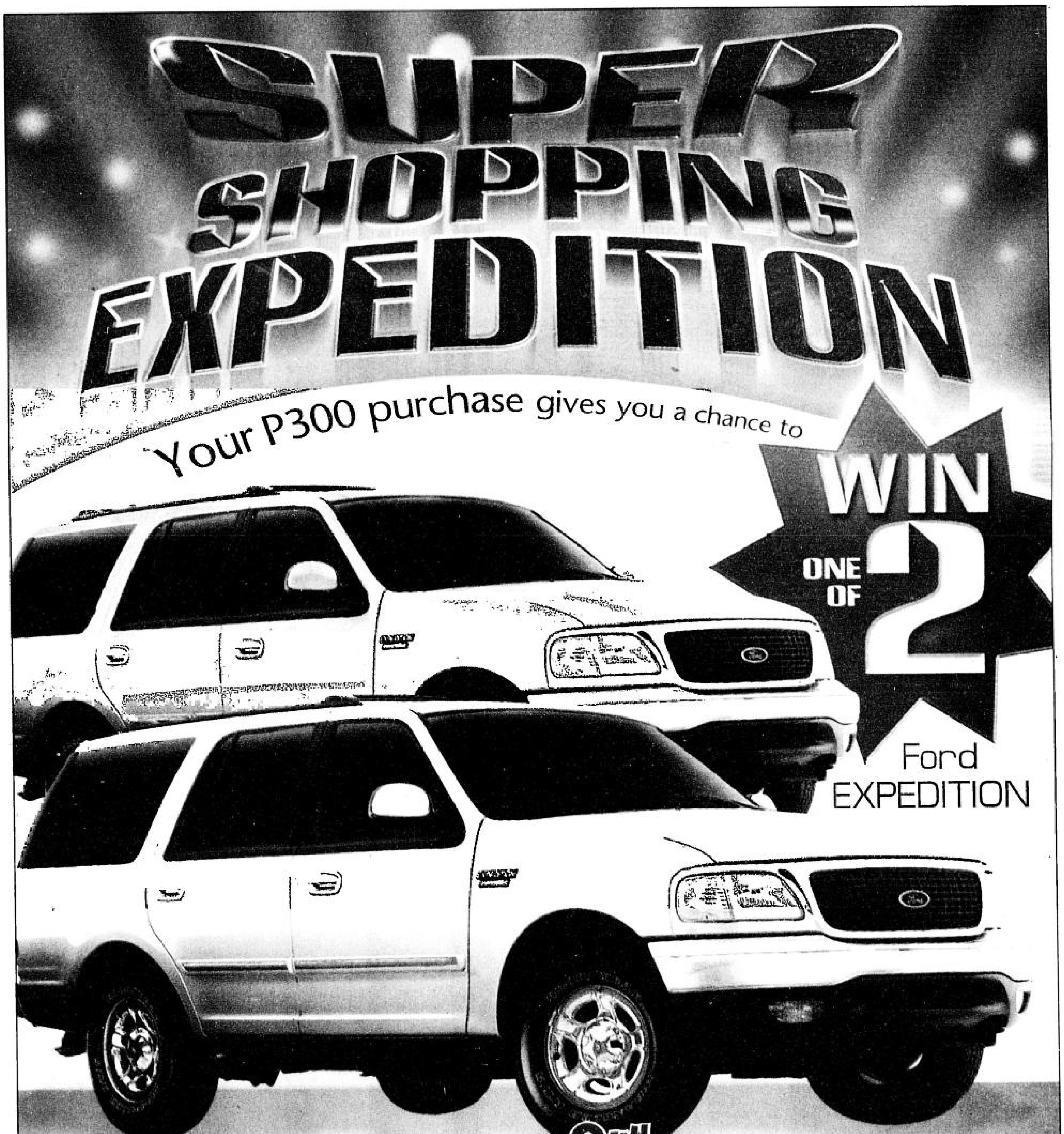
The fire fighters said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her top officials should be aware of the danger since Malacañang Palace is only about 750 meters away from the depot.

UFFP spokesman Alvin Estrada said that compared to the Mexican plant, which only manufactured LPG, the Pandacan depot makes and stores products such as aviation fuel, high-octane gasoline, diesel, kerosene, oil lubricants, grease, petroleum distillates, bunker fuel, additives "and who knows what more."

"The implication of the possible impact in a catastrophe would proportionately increase with the number of facilities and the products they manufacture," Estrada said, citing a research made by the UFFP.

"It should be stressed in no uncertain terms that the concoction, combination or chemical reaction of diverse volatile materials under extreme

PANDACAN/A22



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NBI clears Agarao

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has cleared anti-crime crusader Carina Agarao of any wrongdoing in the disbursement of about P1 million in funds donated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to the Crusade Against Violence (CAV).

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the NBI National Capital Region (NCR) dropped the charges of misappropriation of funds against Agarao after her detractors withdrew the complaint.

Wycoco said the complainants, who are all CAV members, went to the NBI on Feb. 28 to notify agent-on-case Joffrey J. de la Merced that they were withdrawing their complaint.

They also requested that all the documents pertaining to the case be returned to them, according to Wycoco.

"Under the circumstances attending this case, the undersigned (De la Merced) finds no sufficient ground to continue the investigation," said Wycoco, quoting a disposition report submitted by De la Merced. "Hence, it is respectfully recommended that this case be closed and terminated."

The case stemmed from the alleged misappropriation of CAV funds by CAV officials, particularly Agarao.

In a sworn complaint they filed on Feb. 19, disgruntled CAV members led by Julieta M. Cruz and Teresita Carolina M. Domantay said they suspected that Agarao misappropriated "for her own personal use and benefit" a P1-million grant donated by the PCSO as financial assistance to CAV's "court/jail watch programs."

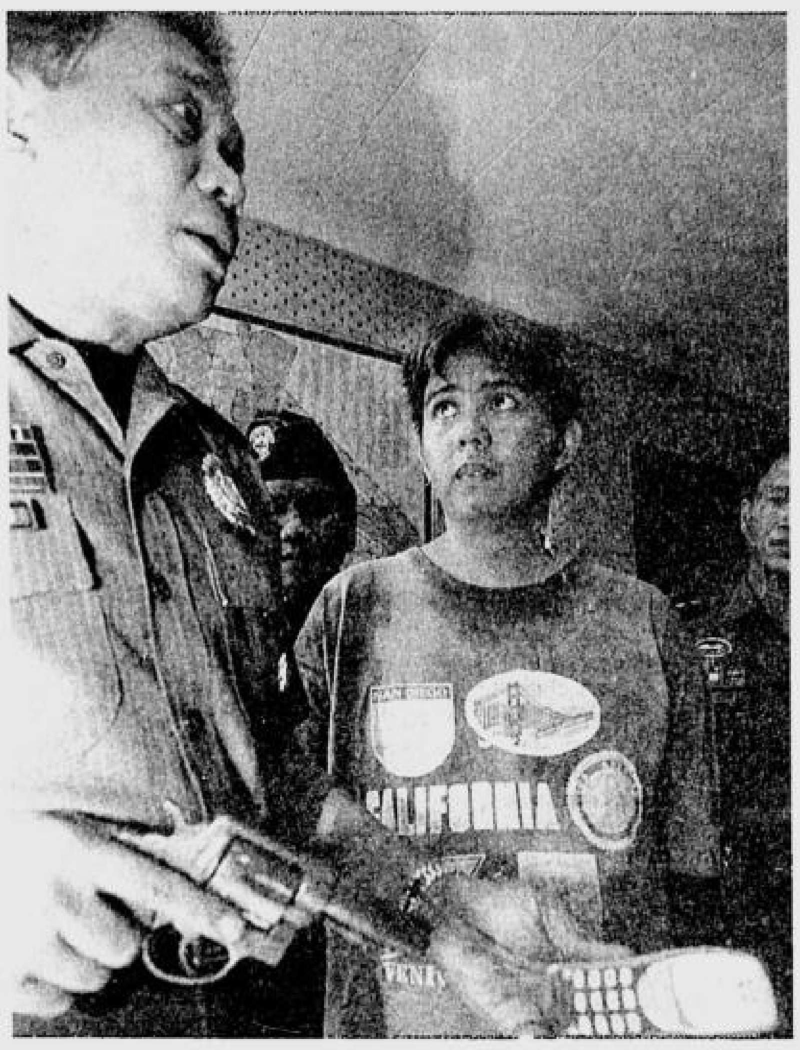
But the complainants failed to present any concrete evidence to substantiate their allegations, according to De la Merced.

"While it seems that the complainants were venturing into a 'fishing expedition,' it was nonetheless decided to send a subpoena to Ms Teresita S. Brazil, manager of fund allocation department of the PCSO, to get a clearer picture as to the status of the CAV funds," De la Merced said.

On Feb. 20, Brazil appeared before the NBI as requested by De la Merced and other NCR agents.

In the presence of NCR agents and the complainants, she attested that Agarao submitted a partial liquidation report on the grant. She also disclosed that after careful examination, the disbursement receipts and other related documents were found to be in order.

"She further alleged that the objectives for which the grant was requested are noted to have been met as the CAV was able to accomplish the outlined activities indicated in their proposal when the grant was given," De la Merced added.



HELLO, THIS IS A HOLDUP
Jun Santos is presented to reporters by Senior Supt. Nicolas Pacinos, the new chief of the Western Police District, who said the suspect, armed with a handgun, held up FX taxi passengers and stole their cell phones. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Cabbie killed in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

TAXI robbers again struck in Quezon City and killed an unidentified taxi driver Friday night.

The Central Police District (CPD) said the unidentified victim was shot in the head inside his white Mitsubishi Lancer Jomaine taxi (PYR-505) in Barangay Sta. Lucia Novaliches, Quezon City.

Investigator SPO4 Mar Castillo described the victim as between 35 and 40 years old, of medium build, dark complexioned, about 5-foot-1, and wearing a white polo shirt and denim pants.

Police did not find any identification cards on the victim.

Castillo said any ID that the victim might have been carrying could have been taken along with his earnings.

The investigator said the taxi was found on Diego Silang Street in Barangay Sta. Lucia around 11:15 p.m. Friday.

Diego Silang Street resident Roberto Baltazar told investigators that he got curious about the taxi after he noticed that its headlights were still on.

When Baltazar approached the cab, he was shocked to see the driver slumped inside, blood oozing from his head.

Aguilar nephew slain over drug drive, say cops

By Alcuin Papa

HIS campaign against illegal drugs could be the reason why Las Piñas City barangay official Albert Aguilar was killed last Thursday.

Sources in the Las Piñas police on Friday said they were looking at the possibility that big-time drug syndicates were behind the killing because Aguilar was involved in the fight against illegal drugs.

"Drug lords in the area might have had him killed because of his active campaign against drugs in the barangays," said a police official who asked not to be identified.

Aguilar was the president of the city's chapter of the Association of Barangay Councils. He was also a staunch supporter and nephew of Las Piñas Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar.

He was also a supporter of congressional candidate Cynthia Villar and her husband, senatorial candidate Manny Villar.

Cynthia Villar is the mayor's sister.

Police, however, are not discounting the possibility that Aguilar was killed by his personal enemies or by the political foes of his relatives.

Investigators are scouring Cavite province for two of the three suspects, one of whom is believed to be a woman.

Aguilar was shot dead by three people in front of the barangay hall of CAA in Las Piñas on Thursday.

An angry mob caught one of the suspects, Liberato Delfin of Dasmariñas, Cavite, beat him up and then shot him to death, Las Piñas police said.

Witnesses said a member of the mob, believed to be a police officer, shot and killed Delfin.

The gunmen, who were on a motorcycle, waited for Aguilar, who had just come from a meeting with other community leaders at the CAA barangay hall on Saging Street, at about 1:30 p.m. Thursday, police said.

As Aguilar boarded his Honda City, the three people approached him, pulled out .45 caliber pistols and shot him point blank, police said.

Aguilar died on the way to the Perpetual Help Medical Center also in Las Piñas, police said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 18, 2001
3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: **Ex 3:1-8, 13-15**

Moses pastured the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law, priest of Midian. One day he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the Mountain of God.

The Angel of Yahweh appeared to him by means of a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that although the bush was on fire it did not burn up. "Moses thought, 'I will go and see this amazing sight, why is the bush not burning up?'"

Yahweh saw that Moses was drawing near to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He replied, "Here I am." Yahweh said to him, "Do not come near; take off your sandals because the place where you are standing is holy ground." And God continued, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face lest his eyes look on God. Yahweh said, "I have seen the humiliation of my people in Egypt and I hear their cry when they are cruelly treated by their taskmasters. I know their suffering. I have come down to free them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a beautiful spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the territory of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites."

Moses answered God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them: 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' they will ask me: 'What is his name?' What shall I answer them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO AM. This is what you will say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM sent me to you.'" God then said to Moses, "You will say to the Israelites: 'YAHWEH, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me.' That will be my name forever, and by this name they shall call upon me for all generations to come."

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12**

Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, about our ancestors. All of them were under the cloud and all crossed the sea. All underwent the baptism of the land and of the sea to join Moses and all of them ate from the same spiritual manna and all of them drank from the same spiritual drink. For you know that they drank from a spiritual rock following them, and the rock was Christ. However, most of them did not please God, and the desert was strewn with their bodies.

All of this happened as an example for us, so that we might not become people of evil desires, as they did. Nor grumble as some of them did and were cut down by the destroying angel.

These things happened to them as an example, and they were written as a warning for us, as the last times come upon us. Therefore, if you think you stand, beware, lest you fall.

Gospel: **Lk 13:1-9**

One day some persons told Jesus what had occurred in the Temple: Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did.

And those eighteen persons in Siloah who were crushed when the tower fell, do you think they were more guilty than all the others in Jerusalem? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

And Jesus continued with this story, "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener: 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for figs on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down, why should it use up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, so that I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down.'"

Commentary:

When confronted with a sudden calamity, our natural reaction is, "Why me? Why us? What wrong have I/we done? I/We don't deserve this!" Calamities are a fruit of varied factors. We hope they don't come. But when they do come in us and people's lives, isn't it healthier to say, "There go I if not for the grace of God?" They serve as lessons to us, or as St. Paul says, "a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come." Sometimes, we forget the transitoriness of our petty lives. In all circumstances, our orientation is not to ourselves but to the just and merciful God, who is all patient waiting for our continuous repentance.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

TAXATION—Tax assessments made by tax examiners presumed correct—Tax assessments by tax examiners are presumed correct and made in good faith, with the taxpayer having the burden of proving otherwise. In the instant case, petitioner failed to show that the use by the Local Board of Assessment Appeals (LBAA) and the Central Board of Assessment Appeals (CBAA) of the Assets Privatization Trust (APT) floor bid price, pursuant to Section 3 (n) of the Real Property Tax Code was incorrect and done in bad faith. The method used by the LBAA and CBAA cannot be deemed erroneous since there is no rigid rule for the valuation of property, which is affected by a multitude of circumstances and which rules could not foresee nor provide for. Worthy of note, petitioner has not shown that the current market value of its properties would be significantly lower if its proposed formula is adopted. A party challenging an appraiser's finding of value is required not only to prove that the appraised value is erroneous but also what the proper value is. Factual findings of administrative agencies, which have acquired expertise in their field, are generally binding and conclusive upon the Court. The Court will not presume to interfere with the intelligent exercise of the judgment of men specially trained in appraising property. Where the judicial mind is left in doubt, it is a sound rule to leave the assessment undisturbed. In this case, we see not reason to depart from this rule. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Cagayan Robina Sugar Milling Co. v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 122451, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Pandacan oil depot . . .

(From page A21)

temperature is entirely unpredictable," he added.

The depot, located on the southern bank of the Pasig River near the Nagtahan Bridge, is maintained by the country's three big oil companies.

The complex is composed of large manufacturing and storage facilities for petrochemicals, connected by pipelines running all the way to refineries in Batangas province.

Estrada said the depot has been in Pandacan for a long time. The heavily guarded facilities are considered strategic to national security. They were the first targets of Japanese fighter planes during the outbreak of World War II.

During rallies by militant groups against oil-price increases last year, soldiers and policemen helped beef up security at the depot. The complex was even the target of several prank bomb threats.

The fire fighters said that aside from the accidental ignition, there is another scenario of liquid fuel spilling to the Pasig River and accidentally igniting, burning everything in its path.

In 1999, one of the pipelines connecting the depot to a refinery in Batangas was accidentally punctured in Muntinlupa City, causing about 220,000 liters of fuel oil to spill into a creek. The fuel ignited and caused the city's worst fire since the war.

The Muntinlupa fire killed at least 10 people and destroyed more than 600 homes.

"What we have here is real and tangible danger," Estrada said. "There are a lot of us living and working on deadly ground, yet how come nobody cares?"

He said that "whoever conceived of allowing these to be located in their present sites could do better running an asylum for the insane."

The UFFP lamented that its statements on the apathy and lack of concern for public safety of the government agencies involved in fire prevention and protection have come to nil.

The group said that during previous fire prevention months and after the fires that struck the Ozone Disco in 1996, the Lung Center and the Asociacion de Damas Filipinas orphanage in Manila in 1998, it always warned that unless the problems of the Bureau of Fire Protection were properly addressed, each tragedy was not going to be the last.

"In all these fire tragedies, there were the usual posturing, grandstanding and blame-throwing," Estrada said. "The most important point was missed."

He said the BFP at present could hardly contain fires, and many fire stations lack basic equipment such as hoses, nozzles, protective gear and trucks.

"The skewed priorities of decision-makers in the bureau and the interior department have neglected the problem for years," he added. "It would be like asking for a miracle to expect the BFP to handle the situation should catastrophe strike the depot."

MOEN'S BACK. Singer and worship leader Don Moen arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Wednesday to again share his music with Filipinos. He will perform in "Don Moen: God is Good—The Philippine Tour 2001" with fellow worship leaders Lenny LeBlanc and Rachel Wilson tonight at the Araneta Coliseum, on March 20 at the Iloilo Sports Complex, March 21 at the Pana-ad Park and Stadium in Bacolod and March 23 and 24 at the Centennial Expo in Clark, Pampanga. With Moen are (from left) Jeffrey Cal, Maxi-Media's VP for sales and marketing; LeBlanc, Wilson, and his wife Laura Moen.

Law needs change —Ozone victims

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

FAMILIES of victims of the Ozone Disco fire five years ago were served justice in the Friday verdict handed down by a Quezon City judge, but they were far from satisfied when they learned that establishment owners were to serve four-year prison terms.

Though they were pleased with the Quezon City court's decision, the Justice for Ozone Victims (JOV) Foundation yesterday said the case against the Ozone Disco owners should serve as proof that the country's penal law on reckless imprudence needed to be changed.

"We would have wanted a longer prison term for them, but what can we do, it (four-year prison term) was what our law provides," JVO president Joseph Santos said.

Santos said JVO would lobby in the next Congress to amend Article 365 of the Revised Penal Code to impose stricter penalties on reckless imprudence, especially if it results in multiple deaths and injuries such as in the case of the Ozone tragedy.

"We are satisfied with the verdict of Judge (Ophelia) Marquez," Santos said. "In fact, she should be commended for meting out the maximum penalty to the owners of Ozone. But had we stricter penal laws, (the owners) would not have just been sentenced to four years."

Lawyer Rod Domingo, legal counsel of the victims, said he would write to Congress to formally seek the legislature's support in amending the penal provision.

"Maybe it should be amended that, when the number of victims are so many, the penalty should also be higher," Domingo said.

Santos said he and the rest of the victims and their relatives would lay down plans on how to push for revisions in the penal provision.

Today, the JVO will offer a Mass at the Sacred Heart Church in Scout Ybardolaza in Quezon City at about 6 p.m., before proceeding to the ruins of Ozone Disco, where at least 160 people were killed and 95 were injured in a March 1996 fire.

Despite the court's verdict, Santos pointed out that victims and their relatives had not stopped waging their legal battle against the disco club owners, as well as local officials responsible for the killer fire.

"Our fight will go on," Santos said. "Friday's verdict was only a small case that proved the owners' negligence."

The bigger fight, he said, would be at the Sandiganbayan, which has been hearing the graft case against Ozone owners Hermilo Ocampo and Ramon Ng, and city hall officials.

Santos said they are optimistic about the Sandigan case because they submitted "the same set of evidence" they presented to the Quezon City regional trial court.

If the accused were found guilty, Santos said, "they could be sentenced to as long as 15 years in prison."

On Friday, Judge Marquez sentenced Ocampo and Ng to four years in prison and ordered the two men and four other accused to indemnify the victims with over P20 million in civil damages.

Mark–not Dante–Jimenez

IN YESTERDAY'S article, "Politics as family business" on Page A25, the reporter erroneously referred to Dante Jimenez as the former presidential adviser for Latin American affairs and Manila Times publisher who is running for a seat in Manila's 6th congressional district. The candidate is Mark Jimenez, not Dante Jimenez who is the chair and president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

We apologize for the mistake.

Dentist denies . . .

(From page A21)

separate report with the Pasig City police station 3 and she also secured a medico-legal certification, he said.

He recalled that while they were at the police station, the woman warned that she would "always cause me trouble." He said that when someone, who might have been a policeman in civilian clothes, asked her what she wanted, the woman replied that "she wanted me to marry her."

He said his father advised him to pretend to agree so that the woman would stop making trouble.

He said the police officer who was taking the woman's statement told him to sign the blotter, "which I did." The woman and Pecson's father also signed, he added.

"It turned out that the statements were actually a sort of agreement," he told the Inquirer. "This is what (the woman) meant when she told your newspaper that I 'agreed to get married on Jan. 29.'"

He said the woman and her parents were able to secure from the National Statistics Office "my birth certificate without my knowing it. They announced to their friends and neighbors our supposed marriage."

"Thereafter, I refused to follow their instructions to go to the municipal hall of Cainta to get a marriage license form, to give (the woman) a certain amount to buy her wedding clothes, to buy her a house and lot and advance the amount of P40,000, and to accompany her to restaurants to have lunch or dinner," Pecson said.

"All the while," he said, "she kept on calling my sister instructing her to inform me that she wanted P200,000 in return for a waiver which she would sign to the effect that she would no longer bother me.

"When she failed to get the money from me, she went to my house one evening and threw stones at the house," he added.

He said he called police but the woman was no longer there when the lawmen came. "The police record will confirm my allegations," he said.

"I vehemently deny her allegations that while she was walking along the road (in Karangalan Village) I suddenly alighted from a van and ordered her at knifepoint to get inside the vehicle and brought her to my clinic and raped her again," Pecson said.

"I could not have done that because the driver of the van is always my fiancee."

In the earlier story, the woman told the Inquirer that during their confrontation at the police precinct, she and Pecson agreed to get married on Jan. 29. But Pecson did not show up at the wedding so her family scheduled another confrontation with him at the police station on March 12, she said.

Pecson again did not show up for the second confrontation, she said. This prompted the woman to file rape charges against the dentist, police said.

From hero to heel – and back again

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"THE Wedding Planner" stars **Jennifer Lopez** as a young woman who makes nuptials absolutely wonderful for brides and grooms, but goes home at night to an empty, loveless bed.

Initially, Lopez would seem to be miscast in the career girl role, but she manages to rein in her natural sensuality and actually does pretty well in the part.

The problem with the movie is its storytelling. After an entertaining and brisk first 20 minutes, the film's plot starts to bog down with the introduction of some complications and character developments that simply won't wash.

The part of the movie that works well includes Lopez's character being saved from injury by a knight in shining armor who turns out to be a pediatrician. Although they've just met, they agree to catch an outdoor period movie screening at a park, and liking almost turns to love (a sudden summer downpour interrupts what looks like the new couple's first kiss).

In the days that follow, Lopez can't get her handsome rescuer (**Mathew McConaughey**) out of her mind—and heart.

Meanwhile, she's nailed a big account, the wedding of the high-profile daughter of a very wealthy man, and she's on top of the world—until she meets the groom, who turns out to be none other than her rescuer.

Huh? He tried to kiss her when he was engaged to her client? Of course he didn't know any of this, nor did she, but the discovery of his offhand duplicity is really a downer for Lopez, and the latest reminder for her not to trust men when it comes to matters of the heart.

McConaughey can't handle the sudden shift in his characterization, from brave charmer to opportunistic heel, so his participation in the movie turns out to be a liability to the production. Perhaps a better actor could have pulled it off?

In any case, the irony is that Lopez has to continue working on the big account despite the fact that the very sight of her hero-turned-heel makes her want to cry—or punch him in the eye.

Also ironic is the fact that a young Italian is madly in love with her, but she can't even give him the time of day, and instead pines away for a man who's already engaged to her most important client.

Well, the movie goes this way and that it's time for a happy ending, so the plot is suddenly energized by developments that make it possible for two weddings to go kaput, so that Lopez and McConaughey can end up in each other's arms at the final fade!

Summing up, "The Wedding Planner" is a good star turn for Lopez and its first 20 minutes are delightful. After that, things get muddled up by confounding developments that sour up the movie'' sweet conceit.

Maybe McConaughey could try laying character roles instead? As a romantic-comedy leading man, he's way off the mark.

Lenten specials

ABC-5 ushers in the Lenten season with these Biblical specials: On March 18 and 25 on Sunday Night Movies at 10 p.m., "Moses" tells the life story of the Hebrew lawgiver and prophet. Starring **Frank Langella** and **Christopher Lee.**

On March 31 and April 2 on "Saturday Night Specials" at 9 p.m. and "Sunday Night Movies" at 10 p.m., "Solomon" is about the second son of **David**, who ruled Israel at the height of its prosperity and is best known for his great wisdom.

On April 2 and 9 on "The Big Night" at 8 p.m., "Jerusalem" takes viewers to the place where it all happened, the holy city of both the Jews and Christians.

On April 8 and 15 on "Sunday Night Movies" at 10 p.m., "Jesus" stars **Gary Oldman, Jacqueline Bisset** and **Jeremy Sisto** in the title role.

TV treats

TODAY, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Movies, "Willow" stars Joanne Whalley. Replay is on March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Ozone: Cancer of the Sky" records the work of scientists in Antarctica as they study the growing depletion of the earth's protective ozone shield.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Runaway Bride" topbills **Julia Roberts** and **Richard Gere.**

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Carlos Morales expected to be the next big one

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AFTER his best-actor victory in the Star Awards for Movies last Saturday, **Carlos Morales** is expected to be a sought-after male lead in local cinema.

Many industry insiders also say this is Carlos' banner year. With the buildup and projects that Regal, his home studio, has been giving him, Carlos is indeed one of the male actors to watch out for this year.

Luck, good breaks and innate talent, which Carlos has, can certainly propel him to the top.

He proved his worth last year when he appeared in **Chito Roño**'s critically acclaimed drama, "Laro sa Baga." He again ignites the screen in Regal's sex-horror thriller, "Babaeng Putik," with bombshell **Klaudia Koronel** in the title role.

"His potential for big-time drama was discovered in 'Laro sa Baga' and now, Carlos is ready to try something new and exciting," notes Regal matriarch **Lily Monteverde**.

The sentiment is shared by the film's director, **Rico Ilarde**, who saw to it that Carlo's natural grit for action and adventure is displayed in "Babaeng Putik."

"Carlos plays a very physical role in this film, but he has the build and the moves required of his character," Ilarde says. "His being a sensitive actor is a very big plus working for him and that is very impressive of a show biz newcomer.

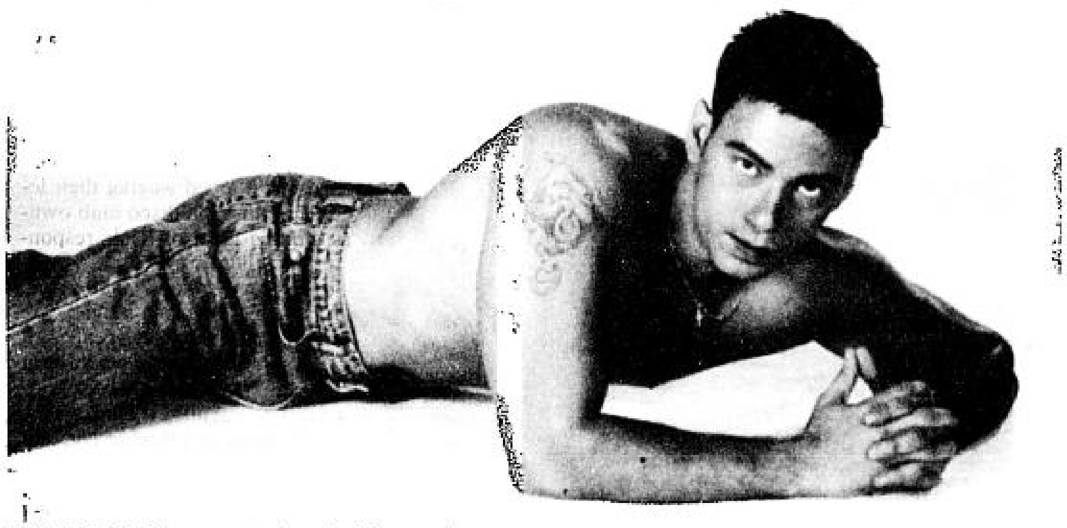
"His appeal comes from an unusual dexterity we don't always get from just any actor. He can shift from heavy drama to light comedy, even to matinee idol stuff. In the next moment, he can do action scenes. He's very intense."

In "Babaeng Putik," Carlos plays a young, aspiring horror novelist who goes up the mountains to get rid of his writer's block. He meets a mysterious old man who gives him a strange seed. When he plants the seed, it grows into a tree bearing a strange, big fruit that ripens and opens to reveal a naked, voluptuous, flesh-hungry and sex-starved woman.

"I got a big kick doing this movie," Carlos admits. "It has everything that audiences want to see—drama, comedy, sex, action, fantasy, horror and adventure. It's nice being able to play around my character with all those elements of a good story."

After his best actor triumph, Carlos will be more selective in his film projects. But he said even while clutching his trophy that he would continue to accept bold roles. After all, he's got the brawn and the body required by the part.

"Babaeng Putik" uses digital special effects similar to what was seen in Regal's blockbuster Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Spirit Warriors."



MORALES. More selective in film projects

Is Marc Logan sulking?

IS **MARC Logan** sulking after he was excluded from the "power team" of the new "TV Patrol?"

We heard Marc was told he would be one of the on-cam anchors of "TV Patrol," with **Korina Sanchez** and **Henry Omaga Diaz.** But when the cast was announced, Marc was not in it. Instead, a new recruit from ABS-CBN Davao, **Aljo Bendijo**, was taken in.

Marc started gaining notice for his interesting and often amusing segments on "TV Patrol." But he was not really removed from the early evening news program because he still continues to do his segments.

If Marc is indeed sulking, he's not alone inside the ABS-CBN camp. With the recent newsroom reorganization, after a number of ABS-CBN news talents resigned to run in the May elections, a number of network personalities are said to be unhappy about the *rigodon* of hosts in the news programs.

Well, some guys are luckier than others.

Ideal partner

JESSA Zaragoza vows to be the ideal partner to singer-turned-Quezon City Councilor **Dingdong Avanzado**, after their wedding this afternoon.

The show biz sweethearts will tie the knot in a ceremony to be aired on GMA 7's "S-Files," at 4 p.m.

However, the couple has decided to postpone their honeymoon to give way to Dingdong's election campaign. He is running for a second term as councilor.

Jessa's latest single is aptly titled "Ikakasal Ka Na," a fitting release from Star Records, in time for her altar date. The song was lifted from Jessa's latest album, "Ibigay Mo Na."

"Ikakasal Ka Na" peaked on the music charts last month and continues to get a lot of airplay on radio.

Also included in the CD is Jessa's "Glory of Love" duet with Dingdong.

Indeed, Jessa can claim a phenomenal first quarter, and has a busy year ahead. Early this year, she earned a gold record award for her album. She was cited as the Top Female Artist of the Year in the Top Men and Women of the New Millennium. She also received the People's Choice Award for female recording artist of the year.

ZARAGOSA. Her latest single is aptly titled "Ikakasal Ka Na"

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Sing-along bar-resto boasts impressive lineup of hosts

OH! Sing-Along Bar and Restaurant boasts of an impressive line up of hosts, which includes John Lapus of "Arriba, Arriba" fame, Minnie Aguilar, Chokoleit and Ate Gay. They are the personalities that put life into the place, giving in to song requests from the audience.

Oh! has lined up programs for its customers. One attraction is "Oh! Sing," a competition to showcase one's singing prowess. The search is open to men and women every Tuesday, 9 p.m.

The place has something more to offer. It has a large area that can accommodate up to 500 people. The cozy window seats give an outdoor view through its glass panels.

There is also the typical bar for the hard drinkers.

Upstairs, the dramatic balcony creates a more intimate feeling as it gives an ample view of the stage.

Customers can indulge in mouth-watering food and cocktails.

"Oh! is a second home where you can truly enjoy and unwind," says manager and co-owner Lito Alejandria. "It caters to the whole demographic."

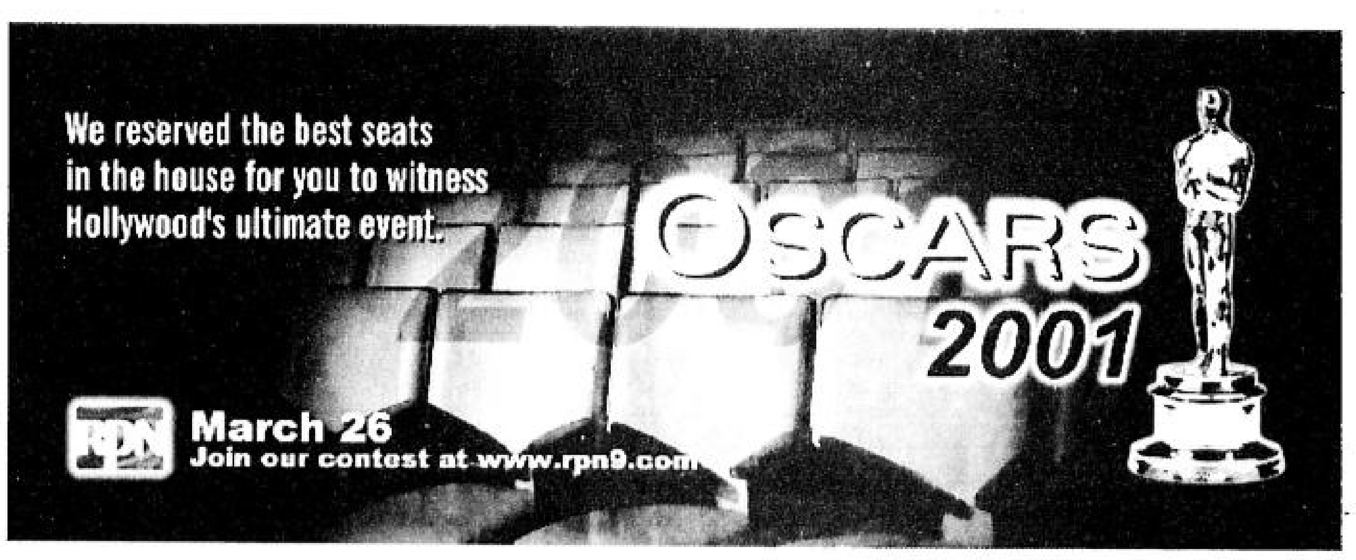
Oh! is open from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. everyday. It is also ideal for album launching, parties and mini-concerts.

On March 19, Oh! presents Ima Castro in a show, "Miss Ima," with Ate Gay as special guest.

On March 21, Dulce performs with John Lapus in "Chazz Once."

Oh! Sing-Along Bar and Restaurant is near Delta Theater along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 411-1488 or 371-4870.

HOSTS of Oh! (from left) Minnie Aguilar, John Lapus, Chokoleit and Ate Gay.



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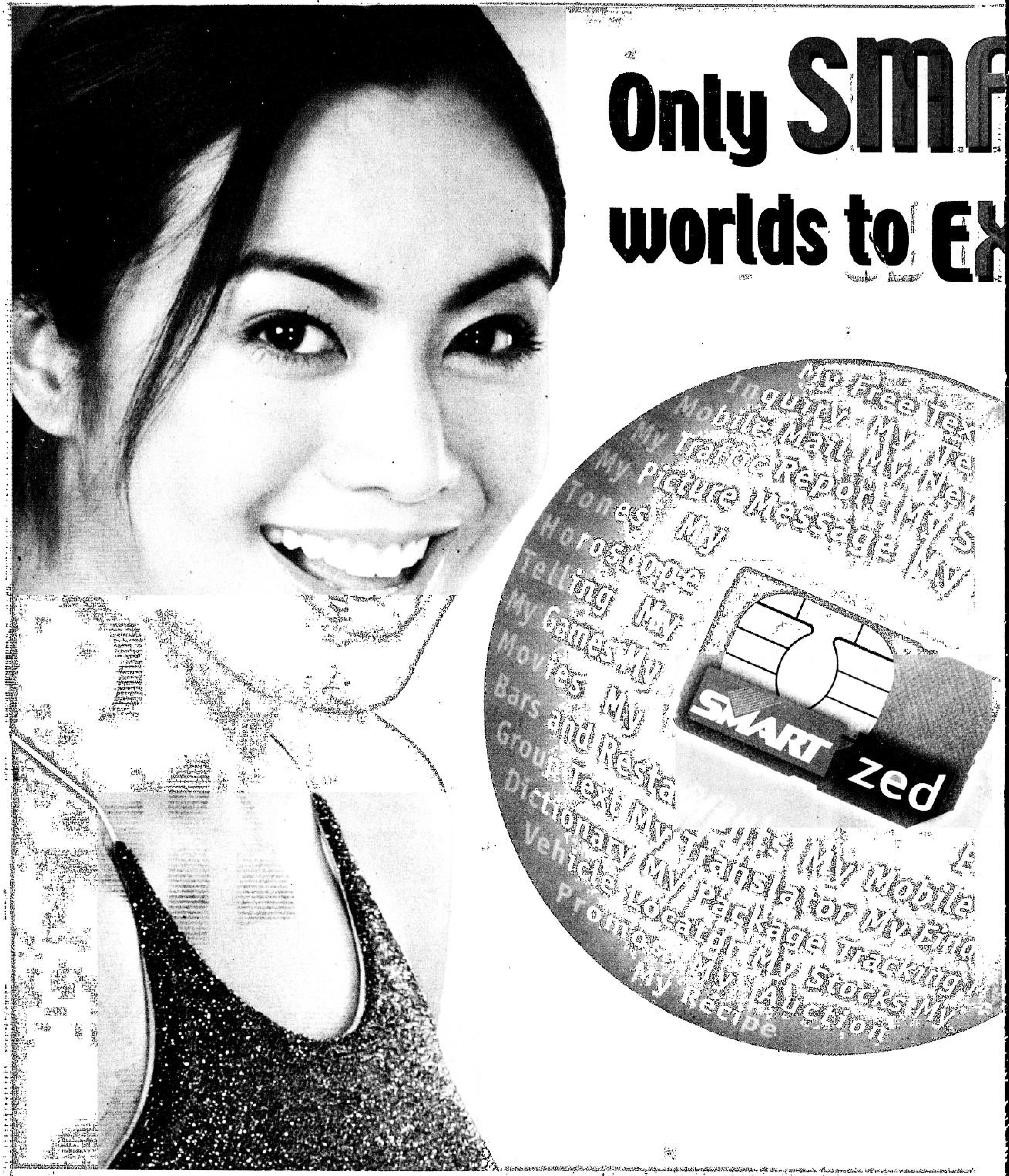
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6	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
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7	ULTRA SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER

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a special presentation

The Corrs, at last, in September show

IT'S confirmed. The event you almost failed to see, "The Corrs Live in Manila," originally slated for Feb. 16, has been rescheduled to Sept. 30 (Sunday).

The Corrs was earlier forced to cancel their Asia Pacific Tour due to lead singer Andrea's severe ear infection in January. Fortunately, her condition has improved considerably which has allowed her to travel to the United States for several performances.

The whole Far East, Australia and New Zealand tour has been rescheduled to September-October, with Hong Kong added to the tour.

Confirmed rescheduled dates for the tour: Hong Kong — Sept. 27; Manila — Sept. 30; Jakarta — Oct. 3; Singapore — Oct. 6; Kuala Lumpur — Oct. 7; Sydney, Australia — Oct. 11 and 12; Auckland, New Zealand — Oct. 14; Melbourne, Australia — Oct. 16 and 17.

The Corrs has been nominated for several categories on the prestigious Grammy Awards as well as the Brit Awards.

The group's latest single, "Give Me a Reason," from their top selling album, "In Blue," has been climbing the charts all over Europe and the Far East.

All tickets for the Feb. 16 show will be honored on Sept. 30.

All roads lead to the big dome on Sept. 30 for the most awaited event of the year, "The Corrs Live in Manila," presented by Nokia in cooperation with Jag Jeans.

'Telesine' tonight

AT 7:30 p.m., sexy star Ana Capri, young action star Victor Neri and budding actors Marcus Madrigal and Gerald Madrid figure in a timely drama about hope and courage in the heart-rending feature by writer-director Jose Javier Reyes.

"Anak ng Bayan" on "GMA Telesine" revolves around a small town boy who strikes it big in the city.

He later returns to his hometown and discovers his friends are still living in abject poverty.

Earlier at 7 p.m., experience the magic of time travel with Michael V on "Bitoy's World."

Betong was fixing a faulty TV antenna when he suddenly gets struck by lightning.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BILLY ELLIOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	PURPLE STORM
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOO MUCH FLESH
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
MIRAMAR	KANGKONG / VIVID
ODEON	OOOPS TEKA LANG
ODEON-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ROBEN	TOROTOT
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	OOOPS TEKA LANG
QUEZON-1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
REMAR	OOOPS TEKA LANG
REMAR-2	TOROTOT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE
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CINEMA-12	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
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LORES	
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
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STAR AWARDS

No-shows, politicians and jumpy presentors

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

ALMA Moreno's loss became Glydel Mercado's gain.

Members of the Philippine Movie Press Club were smarting from Alma's no-show at the recent Star Awards for Movies. The former actress was reportedly dying to display her 25-inch waistline in a saucy dance number reminiscent of her "Loveliness" days. In fact, Alma rehearsed and had her measurements taken by designer Eric Pineda several days before her Saturday night performance.

Instead, people witnessed a younger Glydel tossing her head and defying gravity with ample help from the VIP Dancers. Pineda had to alter the velvet catsuit with beaded trimmings he made for Alma posthaste to fit Glydel.

"We didn't even hear from her (Alma)," said PMPC president Nora Calderon in Filipino. "Our staff tried to reach her last night but she was nowhere to be found."

Fresh from the set of her movie being shot in Subic, Glydel had to pinch-hit for the missing Alma. She barely had a day to rehearse the James Bond-inspired scorcher, but like a real trooper, the actress delivered.

"Glydel is really a good girl," said a relieved Calderon. "She didn't even think twice when we asked her to perform this morning."

What happened to Alma? She probably chickened out after learning Vilma Santos was also attending the affair as one of its hosts. For a time, the two actresses became one-time rivals when they tried to outdance and out-lift each other with nothing but tangas on in their respective TV shows back in the late '80s.

But while Vilma continues to reap acting awards even after becoming mayor of Lipa, Alma had to content herself with being a politician's wife.

GLIDING GLYDEL. Mercado defies gravity with the VIP Dancers. PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Lately, Alma has been resurrecting her glory days by performing in her Parañaque nightspot. One of filmdom's loveliest faces seems to be stuck in a time warp.

Alma should have taken her cue from Vilma. When Lorna Tolentino, also one of the evening's hosts, asked her how she felt looking back at her dancing days, Vilma, without batting an eyelash, gave a succinct reply: "Graduate *na ako diyan, eh.*"

But unfortunately, Vilmanians as usual were as rowdy as ever as they shouted themselves hoarse at every turn. Her entire constituency, it seems, trooped to the UP Theater to show her their unsolicited support. Some even waved placards with letters that formed Vilma's name. They were positioned on the left side of the stage near the podium where their idol stood.

Luckily, Nora Aunor wasn't in the running or else the acting derby would have been reduced to a shouting match again. On the bright side, their presence might have balanced the shattered eardrums of guests.

What was eating Mark Anthony Fernandez and Janna Victoria? Talk about take two. The pair couldn't even perfect their lines as they read from their cue cards. Unlike succeeding presentors, they had to repeat the names of certain nominees twice before getting them right.

"You deserve this award!" declared a jumpy Mark before thumping the podium. He accepted an award in behalf of child actor Yves Capulong. And we thought the one-promising actor had already cleaned his act.

Wannabe politicians were unable to resist from turning the glittery event into a mini political rally. Rudy Fernandez and Phillip Salvador tried their darndest to appear respectable, but came off still looking like a pair of schmucks. The two, who came onstage one after the other, mouthed a few motherhood statements before announcing nominees in the top acting categories.

To make matters more laughable, Phillip presented the best actress award when a ravishing Elizabeth Oropesa was very much present to do the job. She had earned every right to do so after scoring a grand slam in the same category last year. Instead, the veteran actress earlier handed out a minor award with a bunch of other stars.

Rudy and Phillip for mayor and vice mayor? Alma was at least decent enough to confine her act to Parañaque.

SHOTGUN HUSTLE. Isabel Granada (center) leads a pack of young hopefuls in a funky dance number.

GOOD GIRL GONE BETTER. Rica Peralejo, with reel and real boyfriend Bernard Palanca, displays her new set of assets.

Dazzling special effects in 'The Monkey King"

THIS YEAR, the Hallmark Channel continues its campaign to become the preeminent source of quality home entertainment, with movies that are artfully packaged and exciting film features.

One such feature is "The Monkey King," a two-night presentation about one man's quest to find and rescue a famous Chinese manuscript from a group of demons. Directed by Peter MacDonald, "The Monkey King" premieres on Hallmark Channel at 9:30 tonight.

Based on the well-loved 16th century Chinese literature classic Journey to the west by Cheng-En Wu, "The Monkey King" illustrates Hallmark Channel's award-winning trademark, blending a timeless adventure story, unforgettable characters, dazzling special effects and a cast to provide excellent entertainment to its global audience.

Headlining the cast are Thomas Gibson, Russell Wong and Bai Ling.

Gibson is best known to local viewers as Greg in the hit TV comedy series "Dharma and Greg," and also for his appearances in the films "Far and Away," "Age of Innocence," "Barcelona" and "Eyes Wide Shut."

A Golden Globe nominee, Gibson plays the disillusioned China scholar Nick Orton in "The Monkey King. He has a chance meeting with Kwan Ying (Bai Ling), a beautiful goddess sent by the Terracotta warriors to recruit him for the heroic task of rescuing the legendary Chinese manuscript.

Training Nick in becoming a skilled warrior is the irreverent god, Monkey King, played by Russell Wong.

Wong, who appeared most recently in "Romeo Must Die," also starred in such films as "New Jack City," "Eat a Bowl of Tea" and "The Joy Luck Club."

Honored as an outstanding Asian-American actor and role model, he is the recipient of the organization of Chinese Americans, Image Award and an honoree of the Asian-American Arts Foundation.

"The Monkey King also features spectacular martial arts effects that will thrill its audience. As the party of adventurers journey to the underworld to rescue the legendary manuscript and do battle with evil forces, their dazzling display of energy is aided by the award-winning special-effects company Cinesite, which created the eye-popping effects in films like "Animal Farm" and "Mission Impossible 2."

The Hallmark Channel is a 24-hour global cable and satellite channel that delivers original, award-winning movies and mini-series throughout Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.

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BAI Ling plays a goddess in the Hallmark TV special.

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PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	HANNIBAL - R 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 10:30, 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00, 11:00

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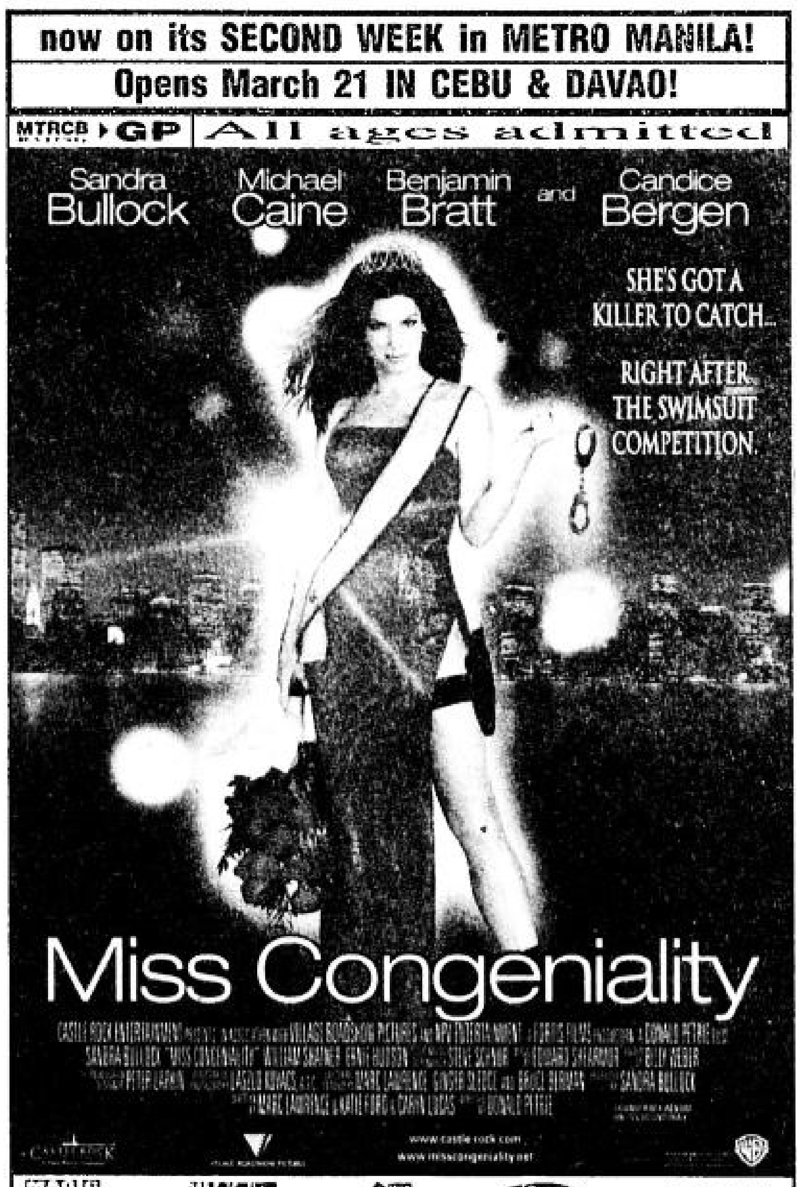

Sandra Bullock Michael Caine Benjamin Bratt and Candice Bergen
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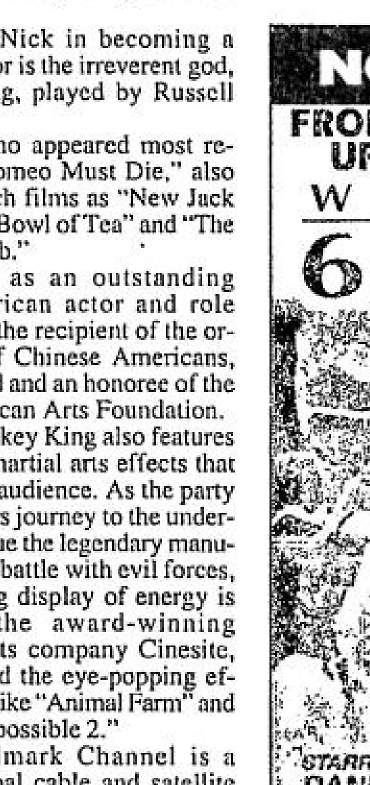

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An infantile 27-year-old becomes fixated on his childhood best friend, and his overheated efforts to renew the relationship completely upend his buddy's fast-track life in Chuck & Buck, a dark comedy which would be shown ONLY at the ARTFILM of Glorietta 4 is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Miguel Arteta (Star Maps). Sharp, funny and sensitive, Chuck & Buck takes a fresh look at themes of friendship, innocence, sexuality and conformity.
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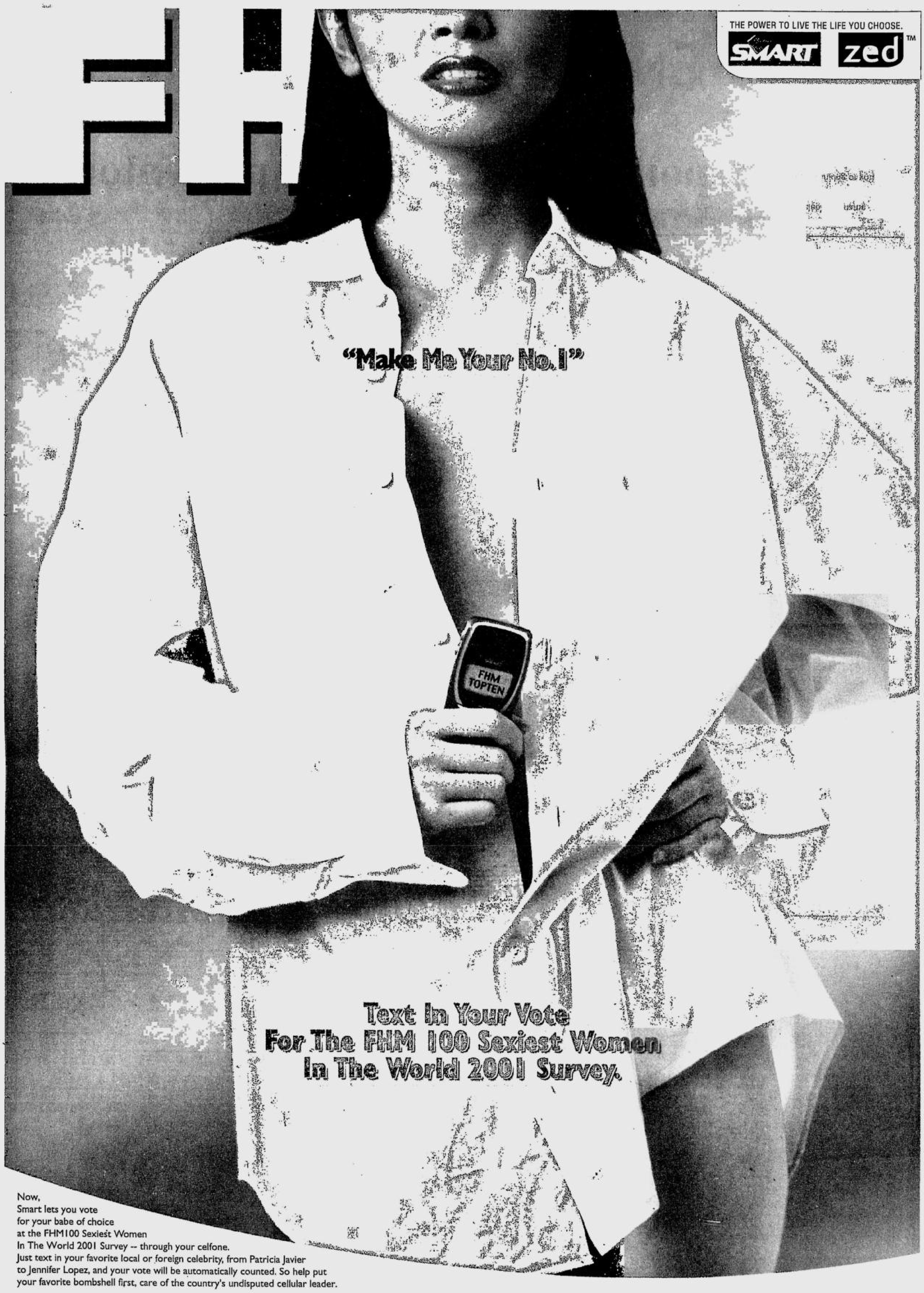

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Giving away money may reap profits, too

MULTIBILLION-PESO companies are often criticized for making too much money while more than half of the country's population live below the poverty line.

ILLUSTRATION: RAUL REQUE

Many companies, however, are spared from most of the harsh criticism because of many charity works and civic-oriented projects that directly benefit the poor.

But altruism is not the only reason why prosperous Philippine companies engage in social development projects that also cost millions.

Maria Aurora Francisco-Tolentino, executive director of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, says that there are pragmatic business concerns as well.

Charity work can contribute directly to the bottom line.

"Poor socioeconomic operating conditions have compelled the companies to regard community relations as a serious undertaking worthy of full time attention," she says.

PBSP, a non-government organization composed of the country's biggest companies, was formed in 1970 to help address the needs of the poor. Since then, the group has undertaken various programs that range from environmental protection, agrarian reform, housing, social credit, strengthening of local governments and institution building for cooperatives.

At the recently concluded meeting of PBSP Visayas, PBSP chair Manuel V. Pangilinan says the member-organizations committed P1 billion to finance a five-year plan to help alleviate poverty in the country.

The money will be sourced from the contributions of PBSP's member companies, which are equivalent to one percent of their income before tax. About 20 percent of the total amount would go to PBSP's projects while the rest would go to the companies' own projects.

"We would rely on the continued generosity of our members and also source foreign funds for the PBSP's projects," Pangilinan said.

Throughout the organization's 30-year existence, programs involving educational scholarships, information technology and livelihood programs for farming and handicrafts were the focus of PBSP's efforts.

Pangilinan says the new five-year plan will be different. It will focus on four strategic areas that are expected to have the biggest impact on the public: poverty alleviation, developing small and medium enterprises, corporate social responsibility and information technology.

Pangilinan also stressed the need to narrow down the focus of PBSP to make it more effective to its target markets and prioritize the programs and resources.

"PBSP can't be all things to all Filipinos. We should also set tangible goals for ourselves, tangible results, tangible programs which our effort can be measured," he says.

In Cebu, for instance, Pangilinan says the group's plan for the city would be to continue helping farmers produce organic farm products.

The Hillyland Area Resource Management Program has been one of the success stories of PBSP. It started as a reforestation project but soon community organization was incorporated.

There were value formation seminars to help inculcate in the farmers their role as stewards of their resources. These farmers were likewise trained in the Sloping Agricultural Land Technology farming system to maximize the use of their land. Contour farming was also taught to prevent erosion.

Planting of high value crops and cut flowers was also encouraged and farmers cooperatives were also linked to markets so that farmers can deliver their produce quickly and efficiently and derive bigger profits. The Cebu government, on the other hand, provided roads and electricity to Hillyland.

Pangilinan says the PBSP is also looking at ways to convert excess products into semi-processed products that can be exported. Tomatoes and potatoes, for instance, can be converted to tomato paste and potato flakes.

Since he is also the president and chief executive officer of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Pangilinan also promises to install phones in Hillyland so that people there can use communications technology to sell their produce.

PBSP has been cited in a 1996 publication by the Prince of Wales Business as Partners in Development. The World Bank and the United Nations Development Program also said PBSP is one of the world's best examples of business-led partnerships that tackle the problems of poverty and social unrest in the grassroots and the policy-making level.

Cash piles up with eco woes

NEW YORK—Just a few kilometers from the gloom of Wall Street, Milan Sukhia was smiling as he walked out of a Fidelity Investments office in New York.

The reason: The $1,500 he used to put mostly in stock mutual funds every month has been going into a money market account since last fall.

"I'm staying on the sidelines until there's good economic news," said Sukhia, an accountant from Old Bridge, New Jersey.

He and many other market players, from small-time stock buyers to large institutional investors, are parking cash in money market funds, certificates of deposit and other steadier investments while they wait to see how low the stock market will go.

Safer

Money market funds are not as exciting as stocks, but lately they have been a lot safer. Money market funds posted average returns of 4.85 percent last year, while stock funds averaged a 3.78-percent loss, according to industry-tracker Lipper Inc.

The big question for Wall Street and Main Street is: What will it take to get that money back into play in the stock market?

"If I can see a six-month span where the economy is turning around, I'll be back on the bandwagon most definitely," said Barbara Hardeman, a bank employee in her 50s from New Orleans.

Worried

Hardeman put $3,000 in a stock mutual fund six months ago, and contributed $1,200 more little by little, but got worried because her fund kept losing money. She cashed out two weeks ago for $3,851.

"I'm more comfortable with money markets," Hardeman said.

In addition to the huge drop in technology stocks, investors are worried about poor corporate earnings reports, hints that a recession may be in the offing and depressing economic news from places like Japan.

In January, investors put a net $140 billion into investment funds. Of that amount, a record-breaking $99 billion was poured into money market funds, according to Lipper. And the February figures are expected to show a greater exodus to money market funds.

Fund analyst John Lloyd of Merrill Lynch anticipates that more than 27 percent of investors' long term-assets will be in money markets—a level not seen since 1996. *AP*

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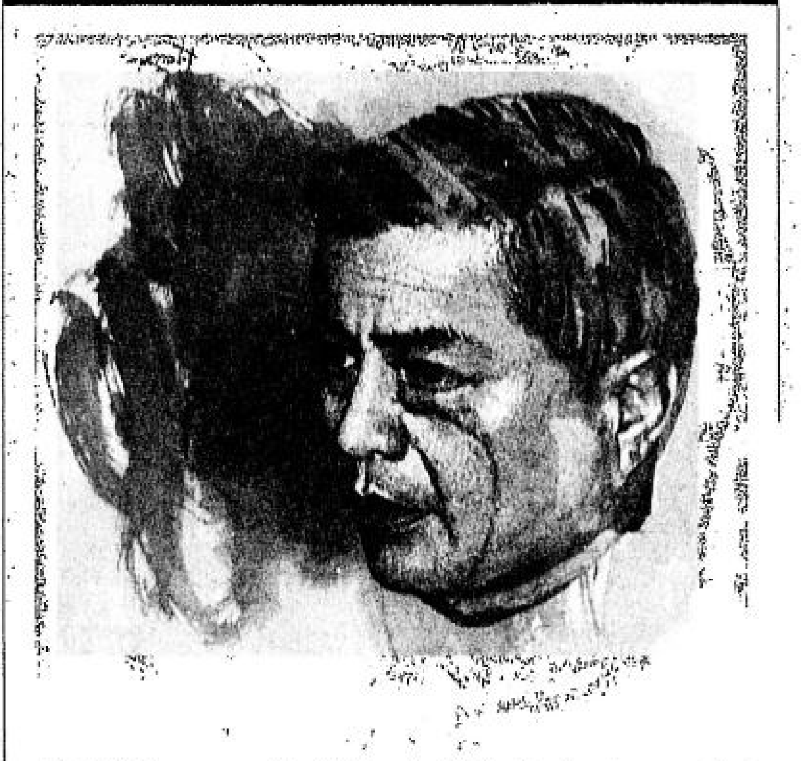
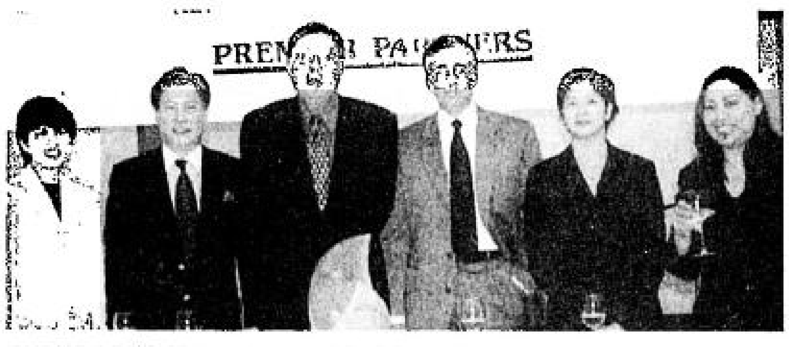


RAFAEL Alunan, president of Maynilad Water Services Inc., may find that the water business is not so refreshing after all especially if Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo stands by his statement that petitions for rate increases will be rejected.

Romulo was quoted as saying that the Macapagal administration is not agreeable to the currency exchange rate adjustment proposed by Maynilad and its counterpart Manila Water Co.

"They should be content with the EPA or the extraordinary price adjustment," Romulo said.

The Cera was supposed to cover for foreign exchange fluctuations.



ENTERASYS Networks, a global firm that provides communications infrastructure, has forged a partnership with Powerline Network Systems Corp. (PowerNet), a provider of network infrastructure integration services. In photo are Powernet's general sales manager Ma-le Tiongco, president Vincent Mendoza; chair Edmundo Ongsiako with Enterasys group headed by president for Asia Pacific Gary Workman, country manager for the Philippines Len Limjap and channels and marketing manager Tessah Flores.

21st century changes at speed of light: How can we thrive?

"The Wealth of Choices"
By Allan Murray
Crown Publishers, 2000

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

"IT'S a great moment to be alive."

This is second to the last line on page 250 of a book that will enable the reader to catch up with the dizzying changes happening in the 21st century. This is an unusual beginning for a review of the book "The Wealth of Choices" by Allan Murray.

But this isn't a work of fiction, and we are not depriving the reader the excitement of moving toward the denouement of a suspenseful plot. A dramatic statement like that is actually meant to kindle, not dampen, the reader's interest to read from the beginning to find out if the author's conclusion is really called for.

The spontaneous question shall be: "What is the author talking about?"

Murray, a literature major who drifted into economics—and who became Washington bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal and columnist of SmartMoney magazine—has come up with a book that is not only reader-friendly.

The book also gives the reader new eyes by which to observe every little detail that's profoundly altering people's lives in this incredible century. He even suggests how we can thrive in every area of our life.

The writer in the author is immediately noticeable with the structure he crafted for an otherwise complicated subject. He begins with a comparison between two economies under the heading, "Not My Father's Economy," telling readers at once that a revolution has just happened—between two generations!

Going for the sense of the new economy, Murray declares: "The balance of power has shifted away from those who have capital and toward those who have ideas." Isn't this truly liberating, especially for people who only have their brilliant minds to lose or use?

Then Murray brings you along on his "personal journey in the New Economy," from the world of thought reading John Kenneth Galbraith's "The New Industrial Estate" who, Murray says, erroneously predicted that large corporations, due to their sheer size and production capacity, would dictate the products to the consumers.

"Technology, in Galbraith's view, didn't work in favor of a consumer driven-free market; it worked directly against it," Murray quotes Galbraith. But Murray quickly adds: "How wrong he was."

Murray takes the reader by the hand to visit or revisit major economic theories—what worked and did not work—and even political developments like the ascendancy of Margaret Thatcher in England and Ronald Reagan in the US whose policies affirmed the truth that indeed "the consumer is sovereign" in this century.

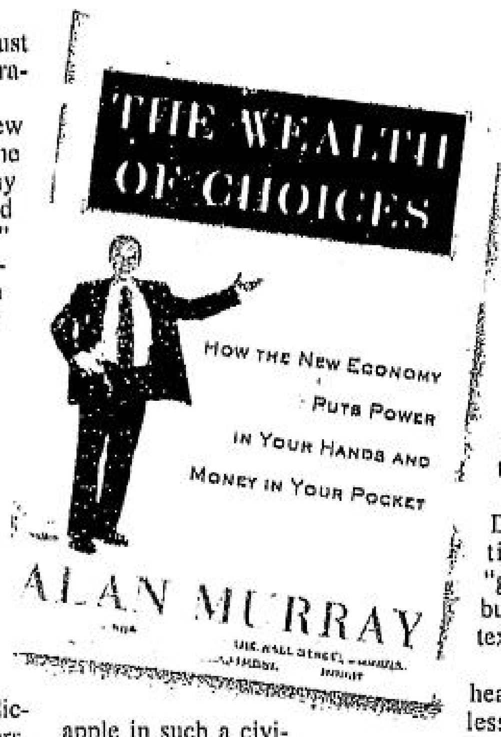
The book is easy and fun to read. Witty repartees and jokes abound in the book—like this one:

Three men gathered in front of Lucas Cranach's painting of Adam and Eve, naked in the Garden of Eden. The first who was British, speculated that the two people were British, since in no other society would a man and a woman share an apple in such a civilized way(!).

The second, who was French, said the figures in the painting were French, since in no other society would a woman give her body to a man for merely an apple (!!). But the third man, a Russian, said Adam and Eve were obviously Russian: they had no clothes, no shelter, only a single apple to eat between them—and someone had told them they were in paradise (!!!).

Obviously, the author is a believer of Adam Smith, author of "Wealth of Nations," written 230 years ago, and therefore a non-believer of Karl Marx, author of "Das Kapital."

The new economy is telling us to be familiar with the "new economics." Just to illustrate how even old theories have to be shed off, he quotes Greg Mankiw, an economist, who defines economics as "the study of how society manages its scarce resources."


THE WEALTH OF CHOICES
HOW THE NEW ECONOMY PUTS POWER IN YOUR HANDS AND MONEY IN YOUR POCKET
ALAN MURRAY

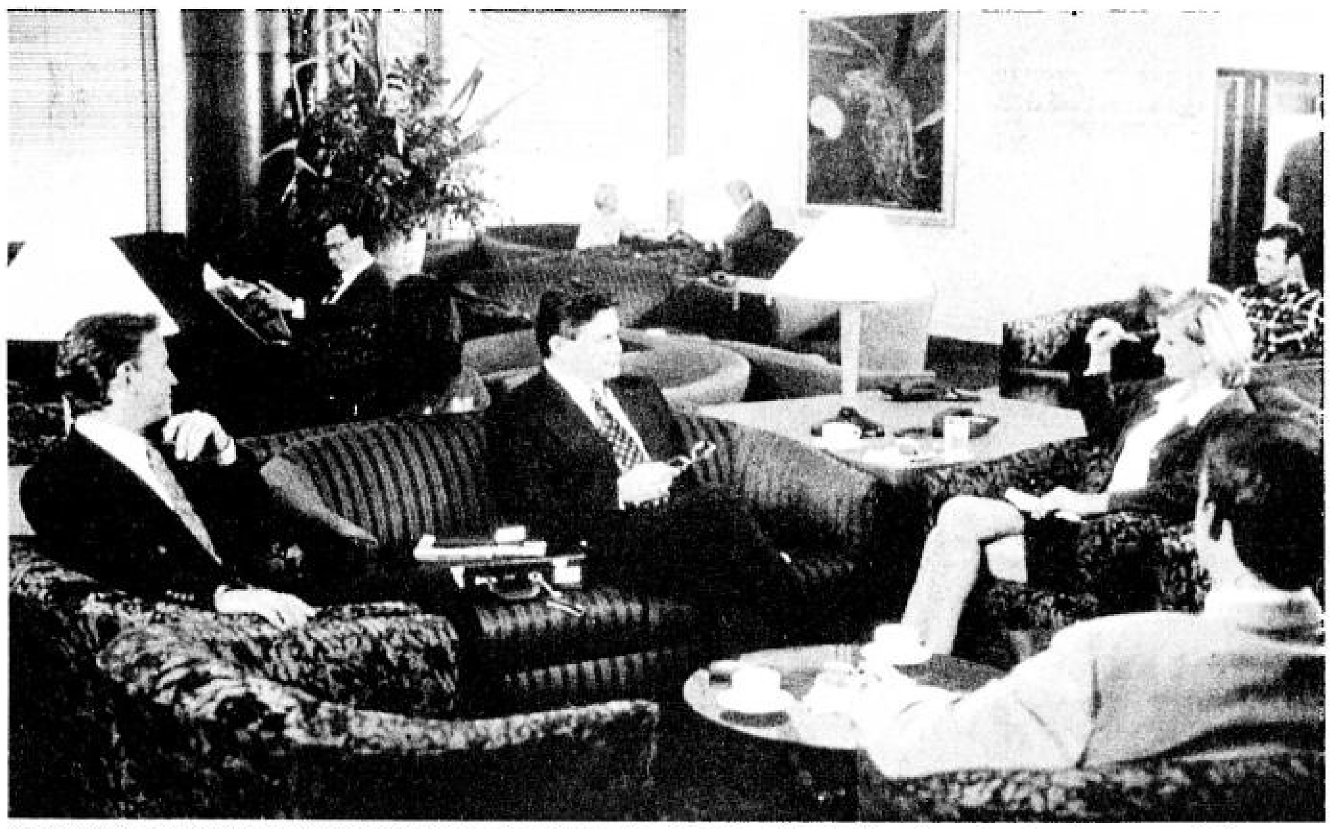
Murray debunks this: "But networks often obliterate scarcity. A great novel or a brilliant new piece of software may be costly to create; but once created, it can be reproduced and distributed to millions, even billions, at little or no cost."

Murray does not load us with theories. He devotes sections to practical questions on how we can be street smart as we shop in the new economy, offering tips on surviving and thriving.

For instance, he advises: Don't be fooled by a product distinction between "silver" or "gold." (I don't know about him, but I prefer Vortex Gold to Vortex Silver for my car's fuel.)

He has really smart advice on health care choices, haggling for lesser tuition fees in Harvard (it doesn't apply here yet—later, maybe for Ateneo, La Salle or AIM). The sections, "Your Mind Is Your Best Investment" and "You Are Your Own Brand," is giving one powerful message: Never in the history of humankind has the individual so much power in his/her hands to shape his or her future.

Here's one book that makes us live with a sense of excitement about the 21st century living. He offers a bunch of lists and guidelines on how to win—and even get rich—in the 21st century, which is truly upon us. Two types of people view these changes: the realist (who sees both dark and light) and the optimist (who would rather focus on the marvelous light). No wonder, the author's optimism in the very last line in the book, which can serve as the century's slogan, is this: "Make the most of it." *Feedback: dantemv@I-next.net. (Available in Page One at Rockwell Power Plant)*



QANTAS is proud of its Australian brand of customer service which is said to be friendly, relaxed and accommodating.

THE AIRLINE spent over $250 million to refurbish its first class and business class sections to include wider and more comfortable seats.

Airline claims travelers pay the extra cost for better food

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

QANTAS Airlines, with its kangaroo symbol, is one of the many images of Australia, just like the koala bear and the boomerang.

It is an image that the Australian carrier tries very hard to maintain in terms of customer service, safety, reliability and engineering excellence.

Qantas sales manager Ed Cailao tells the INQUIRER that Qantas lives up to Australian values in the way customers are taken cared of. Australians, he says, are known to be relaxed, accommodating and very friendly and guests are always made to feel welcome either in their houses or aboard a long flight.

Cailao says the unique Qantas way of dealing with customers helps set it apart from the many other airlines that offer practically the same amenities to guests.

There are the usual access to a lounge, fully reclining seats, amenities, entertainment and the more than adequate space to relax during a long flight which were refurbished in 1998 to keep up with the more stringent demands of first class and business class passengers.

Qantas selected and trained 350 flight attendants for their commitment and ability to deliver individualized service. Their training involved wine appreciation, personal presentation, enhanced customer service and food preparation.

Qantas also reconfigured the planes themselves as part of the refurbishment program. It invested some $250 million in the reconfiguration, which included fitting full-recline sleeper seats in first class and electronically operated seats with five-way touch pad controls in the business class.

The cuisine was also totally changed and has proven to be a major factor that differentiates Qantas from other airlines.

Unlike other airlines where food is limited to a few viands and cheese and wine, Qantas attempted to create a restaurant-style dining experience at 30,000 feet above the ground where first class and business class customers are given a wide choice of food and drinks.

Most of the food is prepared aboard the flight and meals are put on plates in the galleys, instead of getting them from the service trolleys, for a more personalized service.

The menu was also expanded to reflect the diversity and flavors of the countries which Qantas flies to.

Cailao says the new and improved business class amenities has increased the load factor of the business class seats coming from the Philippines. Businessmen still account for the bulk of the market although more leisure travelers are now willing to pay the price for the extra service and amenities.

A round trip ticket to Sydney for instance, costs $1,111 for economy and more than doubles to $2,870 for business class.

Qantas operates five direct flights to Australia every week, four to Sydney and one to Brisbane on Thursdays. It is one of eight member airlines of the Oneworld alliance, along with Aer Lingus, American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Ibera and LanChile.

It celebrated its 50th year of operations in the Philippines last year where it looked back on the days when Qantas first flew to the Philippines in 1947 as a military-chartered courier service between Australia and Japan and in 1950 when Qantas first promoted travel to Australia.

Qantas is also the world's second oldest airline, and the first airline in the English-speaking world, founded in the Queensland outback in 1920.

Qantas country manager Honeybee Y. Hubahib says Qantas still gets a large chunk of the market going to Australia but says she wants to broaden the mix of travelers to include more leisure travel to and from Australia.

THE OLDEST airline in the English-speaking world uses Boeing 747-400 planes for long haul flights.

ASIDE from the usual amenities, Qantas' new business class boasts of a restaurant-style dining experience.

Japan tests its mettle with recycling plan

TOKYO—Japan has never had a problem churning out new televisions or refrigerators that are a must-have for consumers.

Deciding what to do with the old ones is a different story.

Rusting refrigerators, discarded televisions and unwanted washing machines sprout among the grasses of scenic riverbanks throughout the country.

But new legislation that takes effect next month aims to change that by requiring electronics makers to recycle old appliances, rather than crushing or burying them as waste.

So far, electronics firms have been giving the impression they will follow the new rules, absorbing some of the additional costs that recycling will require as a trade-off for improving their efficiency in using recycled materials and portraying themselves as socially responsible businesses.

But the jury is still out on whether consumers, battered by a decade of economic stagnation, will pay additional costs, too.

"It's difficult to predict how many used goods will be collected for recycling beginning in April," said Junji Kanegawa, a spokesman at Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., the world's largest consumer electronics manufacturer.

"It's a question of individual standards and also how strictly the new law will be enforced."

Tomoki Katagiri, deputy head of Mitsubishi Materials Corp.'s Global Ecoindustry Center, said it would likely take about three years for the public to accept the additional costs for protecting the environment.

Not easy being green

Under the new law, manufacturers must recycle four types of appliances—washing machines, televisions, refrigerators and air-conditioners—accounting for around 80 percent of all appliances produced in Japan.

Used appliances are now collected by electronics shops or local governments, after which most of them are crushed and buried as waste or exported as used products or parts.

But years of using this system has left little land available for appliance burial in densely populated Japan and the government estimates even that will be used up in seven to eight years.

While no official data exist, an estimated 20 million used home appliances must be disposed of annually in Japan, industry sources said. In the past, 20 to 40 percent of them were believed to have been illegally dumped or exported.

After the new law takes effect, Matsushita and other Japanese consumer electronics goods manufacturers plan to charge consumers 2,400 yen ($20) to dispose of unwanted washing machines, 2,700 yen for televisions, 3,500 yen for air-conditioners and 4,600 yen for refrigerators.

Manufacturers have built new recycling plants and teamed up with recyclers to smooth the procedure.

But consumers will also have to pay the cost of transporting the appliances from the manufacturers' shops to recycling plants. This could be hard to swallow at a time when they are keeping a tight hold on their purse strings due to the sluggish economy.

Rules lack teeth

The success of the regulations may hinge on how strictly they are enforced and the economic benefits firms can gain through recycling.

Many consumers are likely to illegally dump unwanted appliances if they view the new disposal costs as too expensive, and shops might send appliances to scrap makers instead of recycling plants to cut costs and avoid charging their customers, a metal industry source said.

Unfortunately for supporters of the new law, local government regulation of illegal appliance dumping is seen as generally loose and penalties may not be much of a deterrent. Under the new law, consumer electric goods makers and retailers can be slapped with a maximum fine of 500,000 yen, or about $4,200.

Punishments for individuals, allowing for up to five years' imprisonment or a 10-million yen fine, will remain unchanged.

Proponents of the plans say the new laws, if properly implemented, are business-friendly as well as green.

A Japan Mining Industry Association official said that if all used home appliances, cars and office automation equipment were recycled, about 14 percent, or 200,000 tons, of Japan's copper output could be recovered each year.

Reuters

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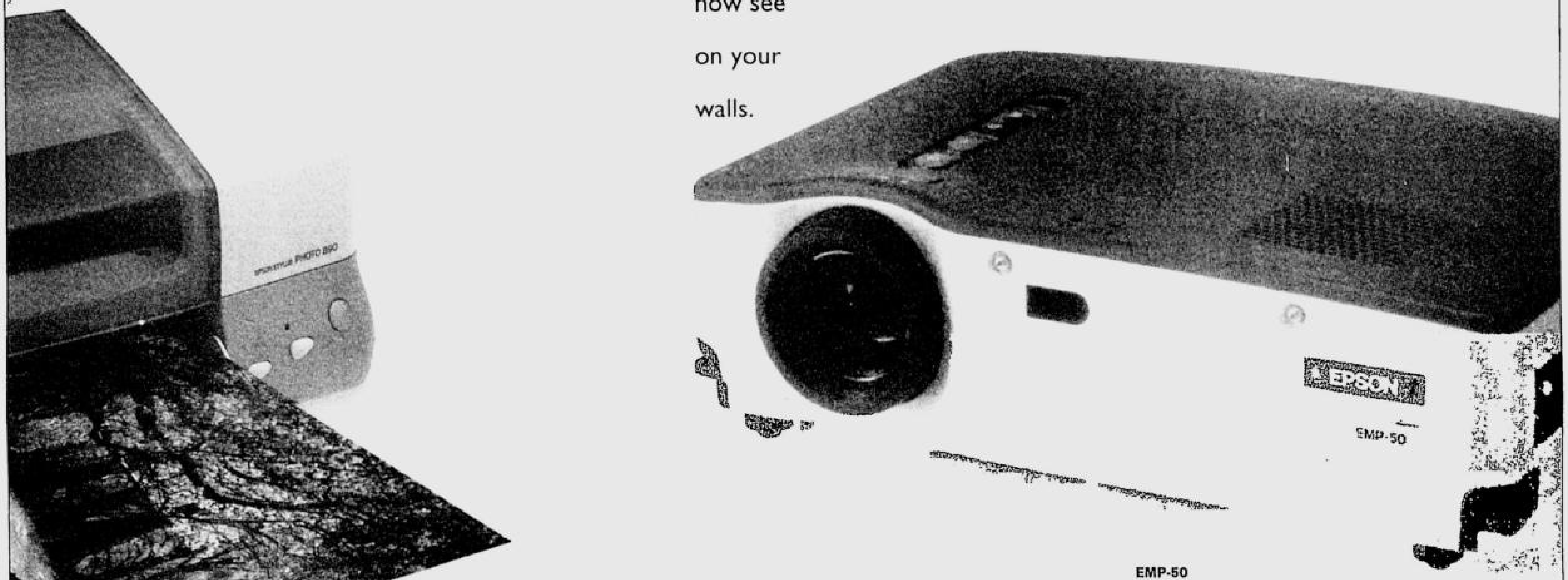

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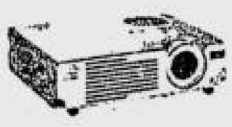
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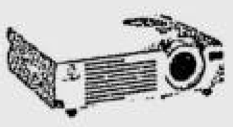
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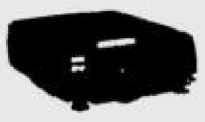
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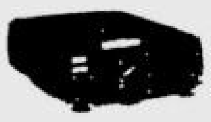
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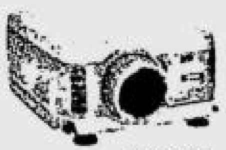
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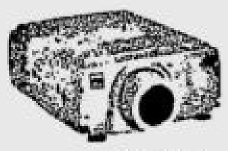
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First Gas Power Corporation placed an order with the German company SIEMENS AG, to build a Combined Cycle Power Plant, the San Lorenzo Plant, with approximately 500 MW in Santa Rita, Batangas City adjacent to the existing 1000 MW Plant.

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- Computer literate

OPERATIONS CONTROLLERS

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- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- Knowledge in Gas/Steam Turbine and/or Boiler Operation, will be an advantage
- Minimum of 5 years experience in plant operation, preferably power plants.

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- With at least three (3) years continuous, full-time experience in finance, accounting systems and controls in a medium to large size organizaiton. An MBA degree is a plus.

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4. *Picture page from passport*
5. *Board exam rating*
6. *Transcript of records (Nursing School)*
7. *Resumé with 2x2 pictures*
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523-1037, 525-0055

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(In compliance only with RA 7041 and subject to AO 100, s. 1999 and AO 5, s. 2001)

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MASON I

SG-3, Item No. NCCAC-MSN1-1-1998. Elementary school graduate. Eligibility: Mason/ MC 11, s. 1996 - Cat. I.

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☑ With or without experience

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☑ At least two (2) years experience
☑ Honest and hardworking
☑ Must know how to drive motorcycle

Please apply in person or send in your Resumé with Passport Photo at:

2255 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo Street), Makati City (beside Makati Cinema Square and I-Bank Pasong Tamo Branch) or call tel. no. 893-2198 between 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

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- Letter of intent
- Two (2) original letters of recommendation

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5/F MGF Champaca Bldg., 156 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
e-mail address: hrd@regroe.com

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SECRETARIES must be a computer literate, male, age group 24-29 years old, typing English very fast and with good hand writing, at least 3 years experience in Bookkeeping, maintaining correspondences and reports with college degree.

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209 M.J. Cuenco Avenue,
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or e-mail to: dawei_7@hotmail.com
or contact 0917-8470903

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- Able to maintain good interpersonal relationship with peers and colleagues;
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Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with latest 2x2 photo not later than Wednesday, 28 March 2001 to:

The HRD Head
Koryo Subic, Inc.
Bldg. 8095, Boton Wharf,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone,
Olongapo City, Philippines 2200
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Fax No. (047) 252-6703

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

WALTER B. GUBATON

Notice is hereby given that **Mr. Walter B. Gubaton** with last known address at #545-A Halcon Street, Mandaluyong City and with cellphone #0919-6339196 that his Dealership Agreement with AOWA has been terminated with cause and is no longer connected with AOWA Electronics Philippines, Inc.

Any transactions on their behalf will not be honored effective March 1, 2001..

DERCO H. CASTILLO

Notice is hereby given that **Mr. Derco H. Castillo** with last known address at #10 Carnation Street, Tayuman, Binangonan, Rizal, that his Dealership Agreement with AOWA has been terminated with cause and is no longer connected with AOWA Electronics Philippines, Inc.

Any transactions on their behalf will not be honored effective January 6, 2001.

(PDI – Mar. 18, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

SUSAN A. TAMO

CHARLIE M. ROSAL

Notice is hereby given that **Mr. Charlie M. Rosal** with Cellphone No. 0919-2049551 and Ms. Susan A. Tamo with Cellphone No. 0919-2053387, 0919-6639196 has been terminated with cause and is no longer connected with AOWA Electronics Philippines, Inc.

That the above-mentioned name was spreading misleading information through text messages with our customers.

Any text messages from the above cellphone numbers are all fallacious and any transactions on their behalf will not be honored effective March 7, 2001.

(PDI – Mar. 18, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No.: 743-83-01 to 23

Invitation for Bids

Philippines

Early Childhood Development Project
Loan No. 4301-PH.

Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Drops and Syrup
IFB No. ECD-WB4301-PH (1)

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Bids is issued, under the Component of the Department of Health (DOH).
2. The DOH now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the following:
   (a) 411,237 bottles of Ferrous Sulfate Drops 15 mg/0.6 ml, 30 ml/bottle
   (b) 241,516 bottles of Ferrous Sulfate Syrup 30 mg/5.0 ml, 120 ml/bottle
3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the DOH and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or US$250.00 including air courier for foreign Bidders. The method of payment will be cash or bank draft. Information including names of potential Bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. on **9 May 2001**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two and a half (2.5) percent of the amount of the bid. Late bids will be rejected.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on **25 April 2001** at the address below.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

   Convention Hall
   Department of Health
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA Q. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – March 17, 18 & 25, 2001)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

‘Environmental army’ wages war on pollution

Who is willing enough to take a valiant effort in stopping pollution in our country? The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), like a soldier ready to go to war, is equipped with its own “environmental army.''

The LLDA’s major problem is the industrialization of the area around Laguna Lake, and the continued in-migration of the people to the area. “We encounter these problems with great difficulty. We are now being more collaborative with the public and private sectors,” said LLDA director for community relations, Joey Cariño.

One of the most effective programs of the LLDA is the creation of the environmental army. The environmental army was formed through the River Rehabilitation Program in 1994, in conjunction with the LLDA’s Community Development Division (CDD). No formal training is required. All it takes is dedication and whole-hearted support in this endeavor. During its first cleanup campaign in 1995 in San Pedro and Muntinlupa, students from the two municipalities participated. That cleanup was a success.

The LLDA tried recruiting army soldiers to do the job but there was some difficulty encountered during the negotiations. It realized that the best people capable for the job were those who depended on the river—the fishermen and farmers. LLDA then went to the different towns surrounding the lake and held meetings and orientations to recruit such folk.

“By the fifth meeting, we had around 15 people. We then had what we call an ‘indoctrination’. At present, the environmental army consists of five batches numbering around 400,” said Cariño.

Different river councils have also been organized by private firms, such as the Save Silang Santa Rosa (S3R2) project, which is spearheaded by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc (CCBPI).

“I can say that the environmental army creates a sense of awareness to the townspeople once they see the positive results after the cleanup,” he adds.

The job does not end for LLDA. “Everyone is needed here, and we at the LLDA believe that everyone can contribute to the solution,'' Carino concludes.

LLDA was established in 1966 through Republic Act 4850. It is an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, but runs as an autonomous unit. LLDA’s main objective is to promote a balanced growth of the Laguna Lake, regulate pollution and protect the environment.

SIEMENS HOSTS SYMPOSIUM

Siemens Medical Systems Inc. recently held a symposium on the Siemens Somatom Volume Zoom, currently the world's fastest CT scanner. With this new system, it is now possible to examine anatomical regions previously inaccessible to CT with an image quality that allows a high degree of diagnostic reliability. Shown during the symposium are (from left): Axel Wimmer, business development manager for Siemens' CT business in the Asia Pacific; Roy Ho Tat Peng, manager for Siemens' CT business in the Asean business center; Dr. Joseph Shoepf, guest radiologist from the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Grosshadern, Munich, Germany; Precy delas Alas, manager for SMSI's modality management and customer service; and Juan Miguel Tan, president and CEO of SMSI.

BB PILIPINAS VISITS UNILAB

Bb. Pilipinas candidates recently paid a courtesy visit to Unilab, maker of Myra 300 E which is one of the major sponsors of the country's leading beauty pageant. The candidates were welcomed by Unilab's vitamin and internal communications groups led by Alvin So (seated, fifth from left) and Popoy Las Baños (seated right). Myra 300 E helps women stay beautiful, sexy and healthy by promoting cellular renewal for healthier body cells.

VAMSLER PHILIPPINES INC
7th Annual National Sales Conference
"LEADING TO PROGRESS ... IS THE ROAD TO TRIUMPHANT"

PHARMACEUTICALS HOLDS CONFAB

Vamsler Philippines, Inc., a national pharmaceutical company, held its Seventh Annual National Sales Conference Feb. 1-4 at Villa La Maja Hotel in Baguio. Led by Rudy Roberto, marketing manager and Vinia de Guzman, general manager, the affair was marked with marketing plan presentations and culminated with the recognition of outstanding performers. Osteo-4 tablet was also launched. The top performance awardees were Charry Marasigan (PSR of the Year) and Corazon Marasigan (DM of the Year). Its slogan for this year is "Vamsler...Leading to Progress...Is the Road to Triumphant 2001."

1st preschool fair in Megamall

NESLAC, the first growing-up milk for toddlers, will hold its first preschool fair in the country. This is part of its mission to increase awareness on the benefits of early child development. The two-day affair on March 31-April 1 at the SM Megatrade Hall will have preschools and daycare centers as exhibitors. The event also forms part of Neslac's commitment to educate the public on the importance of child development, especially during the child's early years.

Worldwide studies have shown that the weaning years of children are crucial, as this is the time they are most receptive. The child absorbs information faster. Like a sponge, the child's brain absorbs information gathered by his or her primary senses and stores it for later use. This is the reason children appear to be exceptionally attentive to the movements and sounds made by their parents.

Preschools are perfect for the task since they have the resources to fuel the child's early development stages. The teachers are ready and well equipped to prepare children for the more structured process of formal schooling. Preschools also allow kids to interact with others of their same age, giving them valuable day-to-day experiences on interpersonal relationships.

The choice of the child's first school is important. In order to assist parents in this crucial decision, Neslac Growing up Milk has organized the 1st Preschool Fair. For more details, call Events Circuits at 812-7108 or fax 818-1343.

Outback Steakhouse serves only Aussie, US beef

OUTBACK Steakhouse, one of the leading steak houses in the United States with over 600 branches all over the world, announces that it serves only the finest Australian and USDA steaks worldwide—including those served in the Philippines – in Glorietta IV, Makati City and Libis, Quezon City.

“We feel confident in the quality of beef products we are serving our guests. We can assure everyone that our supplies uphold the highest standards of safety and sanitation,” says Outback Asian partner Donnie Everts. “We use only grain-fed beef raised in controlled feedlots. Being grain-fed, our beef is BSE or ‘Mad Cow’ free.” Everts adds that Outback Steakhouse works only with partners and suppliers who share the same commitment to quality that is a priority among all Outback branches in the world.

Outback Steakhouse, which opened its first restaurant in the country in 1997, serves exceptionally high-quality steaks, ribs, pasta and seafood dishes amidst an Aussie-inspired, relaxed atmosphere.

Established in 1988 in Tampa, Florida by Chris Sullivan, Robert Basham and Timothy Gannon, Outback's popularity has since then spread worldwide. Outback Steakhouse in the Philippines is owned and managed by Bistro Holdings Corporation.

NSP MEDIA LAUNCH

Nu Skin Philippines' (NSP) general manager Bernie Mercado addresses guests at the recent media launch of Nu Skin's 180 Skin Therapy System, a revolutionary skin care product that fights aging skin. The 180 Skin Therapy System is a scientifically advanced skin care line of products—an integrated system designed to bring moisture and elasticity to the skin for a healthier, more youthful appearance. This system is ideal for women concerned with reducing the signs of aging, promising visible results in as early as seven days. Nu Skin 180 consists of five products that work best when used as a system: Face Wash, Skin Mist, Cell Renewal Fluid, Night Complex and UV Block Hydrator SPF 18. Nu Skin Philippines is a subsidiary of Nu Skin Enterprises (NSE), a Utah-based direct selling company. The company commenced its Philippine operations in February 1998. NSE has private affiliates that operate in 33 countries including Asia, Europe, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. Nu Skin markets more than 100 premium quality personal care products, make-up and nutritional supplements through person-to-person distribution.

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CITY MAYOR

US LAWMAKERS IN OLONGAPO

Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon and Olongapo City Mayor Kate H. Gordon leads party welcoming visiting US lawmakers who recently made a nostalgic tour of the Subic Bay Freeport, once the largest American overseas naval base, and Olongapo City which they first visited shortly after Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991. Photo shows Representatives Roger Wicker of Mississippi (to Gordon's left), Darrel Issa and Dana Rohrabacher of California, and their wives.

DUSIT TAMIYA WINNERS

Winners of the 3rd leg (technical) of the Dusit M4WD Tamiya Cup received their trophies and National Panasonic battery gift packs from Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila's duty manager Joy Barleta (right), National Panasonic senior marketing supervisor Joey de Jesus (back row, middle), and Philippine M4WD Racing Association president Gokou Ortiz (left). Members of Cainta's Orange Team won all three places. Alyza Kathleen Barro's (front middle) entries won 1st and 3rd place—the trophy being held by her younger brother, and Matthew Barro was 2nd place (front right). The Dusit Tamiya races for kids 6-13 years old are held every Sunday until April 8, 2001 at the Dusit Poolside. For inquiries, please call 867-3333 ext. 3311-3315 or Lil's Futaba at 819-1646 and 633-6358.

BITS & Clips

Kodak rewards photographers

PROFESSIONAL photographers finally get their just rewards in Film Points Advantage promo under the Kodak Pro Care Program. Pro Care members just have to accumulate points for every purchase of Kodak Professional Color Negative and Color Reversal films. Film caps or lids of 135mm format films as well as box packs of 120mm format films can be exchanged for premium items such as camera bags, umbrellas, baseball caps, photographer's vest, belt bag and T-shirts. Aside from getting premium items, Pro Care members are also treated to a load of privileges. They get to enjoy free product updates, quarterly newsletters, technical information, and special discounts to photography training. Those interested in becoming a Pro Care member may secure an application form from any Island Photo outlet or the Kodak head office at 2247 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. The promo runs until March 31, 2001.

Seminar on e-libraries

THE ASSOCIATION of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP) will have a three-day seminar on E-Libraries to be held at the Venus Parkview Hotel, 19 Kisad Road, Burnham Park, Baguio City on April 4-6, 2001. The seminar aims to provide the latest information on key issues of E-Libraries services, explore strategies and practical solutions to quality access to the electronic services of the library; use Internet sites to locate information resources that electronic libraries use, and make participants be aware of the different library software. The speakers are Nelia Balagapo, Professor Corazon Nera, Lourdes David and Director Perla Garcia. For reservations and inquiries, call Corazon G. Garcia at 524-9217, Shirley Nava at 524-9740, Valentina Tolentino at 893-9590, or Milagros Santos-Ong at 521-7223.

Education in the US

SCHOLARSHIP grants, financial assistance and employment opportunities for qualified applicants will form the centerpiece of discussions during the free public informative seminar on educational opportunities in the United States on March 21 at the AIM ACCEED conference center, opposite Greenbelt in Makati City. Representatives from 12 elite American colleges and universities will be featured in the seminar organized by International Education Specialists. Reservations may be made by calling Inter-Ed at 819-1001, 819-1002 or by e-mailing intered@info.com.ph or by logging on to www.inter-ed.com.

Life sciences program

All elementary and high school teachers are invited to attend the Life Sciences Program sponsored by the Department of Biology of UP Manila CAS from April 4-6 and April 9-11. The Life Sciences Program includes short courses on Botany, Ecology, Genetics, and Human Biology. Call 526-5861 for reservations.

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HP SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

In an effort to make their large-format printers more accessible to their Philippine customers, Hewlett-Packard (HP), the world's leading supplier of digital printing and imaging solutions, recently forged an agreement with Wordtext Systems Inc. (WSI). Under the agreement, WSI is licensed to distribute HP's DesignJet printers to local customers with large-format printing needs. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Dave de Leon, iVantage Corporation president and COO; Ireen Go-Catane, HP Small-to-Medium Business country manager; Juan G. Chua, WSI president; and Irene L. Chua, WSI vice president.

CARDIOLOGIST SPEAKS ON PVD

Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines recently brought to the country eminent American cardiologist Dr. Robert L. Minor (inset) and his nurse Sandra McCurdy (second from left) for special lectures hosted by the Philippine Society of Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel. Minor, who heads the Center for Peripheral Vascular Diseases (PVD) of OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois, stressed the importance of identifying the symptoms of peripheral vascular disease, one of which is chronic leg pain. With angioplasty, a non-surgical relief to PVD, a tiny balloon is introduced into the vessel via a small puncture in the skin, and then inflated and deflated within the artery to compress the blockage against the vessel walls. Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines introduced the Palmaz Corinthian Balloon-Expandable Stent which acts as a scaffold inside the artery to restore blood flow and relieve symptoms, an improvement to traditional angioplasty.

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"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation"
Ps. 27, 1

Most Illustrious Madam

Salvacion "Saching" Crisol-Salazar

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Awardee

widow of **Dr. Rodrigo E. Salazar**

was born on May 13, 1922. She died on March 14, 2001.

Please remember her in your prayers.

We who are left behind thank God for the time He gave her to us.
We thank you who have been part of her life and ours.

Children:
Joseph and **Renee Llaguno; Monsignor Ralph. Father Roderick Jr. SVD;**
Rose Marie and **Roberto Clemeña; Randolph** and **Lourdes Apostol;**
Robert; Mary Belle and **Ferdinand Beluan; Mary Rosalind** and **Raoul Zantua; Roderick III** and **Ma. Lourdes Faller; Ronald** and **Loretta Austria.**

Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:
Chippy and **Aireen Imperial** and **Diego; Eena** and **Melvin Sarayba;**
Happy and **Guilder Bringas** and **Luigi**; and **Boris;**
Lorianne, Richard, and **Russell; Bernie, Brian,** and **Bea;**
Rae Mark, Rod Ralph, and **Rik James; Madelene** and **Margaret; Nicky** and **Rachel**

Sister and Brother-in-law: **Mayor Imelda** and **Rudecindo F. Roces.**

Sisters-in-law: **Carmen B. Crisol, Rosario S. Prado,** and **Carolina B. Salazar.**

Wake:
March 14-16, 2001
Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City,
March 17-19, 2001
2 Marquez St., Legazpi City

Burial:
March 20, 2001
after the 8:00 o'clock a.m. Mass at the St. Gregory the Great Cathedral, Old Albay, Legazpi City.

"Unable are the Loved to die—
For Love is Immortality"
Emily Dickinson

Our Dear Daddy

Col. Enrique V. Talens, MC (GSC)

UST College of Medicine, Class 1957
U.P. Vanguard
Philippine Society of Pathology

Passed away peacefully in Antioch, California, USA on May 29, 2000 at age 69.

His cremated remains will be transferred on Saturday, March 24, 2001 to **Libingan Ng Mga Bayani**, Fort Bonifacio at 10:00 AM after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Libingan Ng Mga Bayani Mortuary Chapel.

His loving wife **Noemi**, and children: **Ike** and **Cris**; **Edwin** and **Marian**; **Evalyn** and **Romeo Greg Macasaet**; **Eric** and **Digie**; **Edmund** and **Jovy**; **Elbert** and **Pam**; and **Victor**, and all his grandchildren, wishes to thank everyone who have offered prayers and comfort, and all those who continue to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Lovingly remembered,
Sadly missed

FRANK E. ATIENZA

March 18, 2001 - 1st Death Anniversary

Masses will be offered today at:

Santuario de San Jose Greenhills, San Juan	7:15 AM 9:15 AM	8:15 AM 6:15 PM
Mary, The Queen Parish Madison Street, San Juan	11:00 AM	6:00 PM

What matters most, in the end,
is that you lived and shared a life that is
full, beautiful, meaningful and grateful.
You live on in our hearts.

We, his Family,
request relatives, friends and pious readers
to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul

In Loving Memory
of the Second Death Anniversary of

RIZALINO A. JULIANO

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on March 18, 1999.

His surviving spouse **Leonila**; his children **Corazon "Dinky"** and **Hector**, **Racquel** and **Danilo**, **Serafin** and **Luzette**, **Winifrieda**, **Victor**, **Luis Miguel** and **Katrina**.

Offer prayers on this day and would like all his relatives and friends to do likewise. We remember him fondly and find comfort in the thought that he is now in the presence of the Lord.

Masses will be said at the Don Bosco Church in Makati and the St. Jerome Church in Alabang Town Center.

Our Dearly Beloved

EWILDA VICTA-CRISOLOGO

of Tabon, Kawit, Cavite

peacefully joined our Lord
on March 13, 2001
at the age of 53.

Her loving husband, children **Sally, Sharon, Sarina** and **Susan** together with grandchildren, parents, brother, sisters, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence, #335 Gregoria Street, Tabon, Kawit, Cavite.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 24, 2001, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Kawit, Cavite.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CECILIA A. PATRON

of Lucena City

who died on February 23, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who in countless ways comforted us and condoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

ROLANDO "MANONG" P. PEÑALOSA

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 16, 2001 at the age of 72.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on March 21, 2001 after 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

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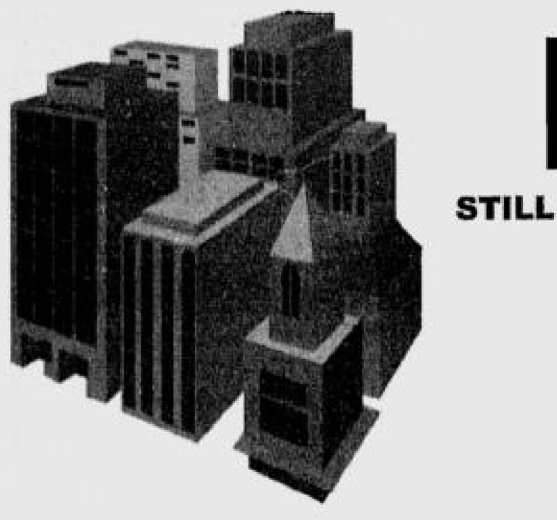

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Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa & Parañaque Area

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KMB 69	Unit 203 2/F Praise Condominium Santillan St., Makati City, M. M. Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; FA – 155.497 sq.m.	P 5,900,000.00
KMB 70	Unit 303 3/F Praise Condominium Santillan St., Makati City, M. M. Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; FA – 144.307 sq.m.	P 5,500,000.00
KMB 98	Unit 505 5/F Praise Condominium Santillan St., Makati City. Condominium Unit ; Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; FA – 28.079	P 1,075,000.00
KMB 71	Unit 701 7/F Praise Condominium Santillan St., Makati City, M. M. Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs. FA – 255.003 sq.m.	P 9,700,000.00
KMB 72	Unit 801 8/F Praise Condominium Santillan St., Makati City, M. M. Condominium Unit : Office & Commercial space. Finished complete with male & female CRs; FA – 255 003 sq.m.	P 9,700,000.00
KMB 86	Lot 2-A-1-H-2 (Formerly 2-A-1-H) Alabang Zapote Road, Las Piñas City - Commercial Lot; LA - 594 sq.m. FA - 45 sq.m.	P 17,000,000.00
KMB 105	No. 205 2/F Bayview Tower I, Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City. Condominium Unit FA – 105 sq.m.	P 4,000,000.00
KMB 124	No. 4 San Jose Subdivision, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Vacant Lot FA = 265.00 sq.m.	P 2,000,000.00
KMB 127	Unit 2C 3/F Bldg. 2, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. Rear-end Unit: MARINA FA = 129.46 sq.m.	P 2,500,000.00
KMB 128	Unit 2D 3/F Bldg 2, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. Front-end unit: OCEANA. FA = 95 34 sq.m.	P 1,850,000.00
KMB 129	Unit 1A G/F Bldg. 1, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. G F Unit: TROPICALE. FA = 182 45 sq.m.	P 3,800,000.00
KMB 130	Unit 1B 2/F Bldg 1, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. 2/F Unit: PACIFIC. FA = 141.00 sq.m.	P 3,200,000.00
KMB 131	Unit 1C 3/F Bldg. 1, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. Rear-end Unit MARINA FA = 129.46 sq.m.	P 2,500,000.00
KMB 132	Unit 1D 3/F Bldg. 1, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. Front-end unit. OCEANA. FA = 95.34 sq m.	P 1,850,000.00
KMB 133	Unit 3A G/F Bldg. 1, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. GF Unit TROPICALE FA = 182 45 sq.m.	P 4,350,000.00
KMB 134	Unit 3C 3/F Bldg 3. Belmont South Park Townhouse United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. rear-end unit MARINA FA = 129 46 sq.m.	P 2,850,000.00
KMB 135	Unit 4B 2/F Bldg. 4, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. 2/FUnit: PACIFIC FA = 141 00 sq m.	P 3,200,000.00
KMB 136	Unit 4C 3/F Bldg 4, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. Rear-end unit MARINA FA = 129 46 sq m	P 2,700,000.00
KMB 137	Unit 4D 3/F Bldg. 4, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. Front-end unit OCEANA FA = 95 34 sq.m	P 2,000,000.00
KMB 138	Unit 5A G/F Bldg. 5, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City GF: TROPICALE FA = 182 45 sq m	P 3,800,000.00
KMB 139	Unit 6B 2/F Bldg 6, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City. 2/F unit PACIFIC FA = 141.00 sq.m.	P 2,800,000.00
KMB 140	Unit 6C 3/F Bldg 6, Belmont South Park Townhouse, United Hills Subd., Parañaque City Rear-end unit MARINA FA = 129 46 sq m.	P 2,500,000.00
KMB 74	No. 231-A, Interior A, Gen Aguinaldo St. (Col Santos Street). Bgy. South Cembo, Makati City Residential Lot, Improved by One Storey Residence. LA = 204 sq.m., FA = 93.12 sq m	P 2,250,000.00
KMB 76	Along J.P. Rizal Street, Makati City. Two (2) adjoining Commercial Lots.LA - 400 00 sq m	P 20,000,000.00
KMB 156	No. 117 Dapdap Street, Casimiro Village II, Pamplona, Las Piñas City. Two (2) adjoining lots. Improved by Two (2) Storey Residential Building. LA = 300.00 sq m., FA = 244.00 sq.m.	P 2,600,000.00
KMB 159	No. 316 El Grande Avenue, BF Homes, Parañaque City Two (2) adjoining Residential Lots, Improved by Single Storey Residential Building with Roofdeck, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Toilet & Bath. LA = 793.00 sq.m. FA = 325.25 sq.m.	P 8,200,000.00
KMB 161	Unit 222 , 2/F, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Ave., Makati City. Office Space FA = 145.06 sq.m.	P 9,420,000.00
KMB 162	Unit 223 , 2/F, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Ave., Makati City. Office Space FA = 192.05 sq.m.	P 12,480,000.00

Caloocan, Navotas, Manila, Quezon City , Mandaluyong & San Juan Area

CODE	LOCATION	SELLING PRICE
KMB 103	No. 71 Agno Extension Sta. Mesa Heights Bgy. Talaion, Quezon City. House & Lot; Three-storey residence with penthouse & roofdeck, 5 BR and 9 T & B. Near Agno Extension. LA = 162.70 sq.m.	P 5,100,000.00
KMB 113	No. 17 (Lots 4 - A&D) Calderon Street, Bgy. Mariblo. Proj. 4, Quezon City. House & Lot: LA – 128.00 sq.m. (lot 4 – A) and 37.50 sq.m. (lot 4-D, right of way). Two-storey – 2 door apt. It is about 15 m away from J.P. Rizal Street and about 150 m away from Aurora Blvd. Near PSBA Quezon City	P 3,000,000.00
KMB 116	Unit 4, Luxor Villas Townhomes, Santolan Road, San Juan, MM. Four (4) storey concrete bldg. with parking space. FA = 280 00 sq.m.	P 7,180,000.00
KMB 117	Unit 5, Luxor Villas Townhomes, Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila. Four (4) storey concrete bldg with parking space. FA = 280 00 sq.m.	P 7,180,000.00
KMB 118	Unit 9, Luxor Villas Townhomes, Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila. Four (4) storey concrete bldg. with parking space. FA = 280 00 sq.m.	P 7,180,000.00
KMB 147	No. 2985 Clemente Street cor. Gabriel Street, Tondo, Manila. Improved by 2 Storey Residential Building and Candy Factory with Roofdeck. LA = 172 sq.m. FA = 156 sq.m.	P 3,500,000.00
KMB 160	No. 57 Samar Avenue, Brgy. South, Triangle, Quezon City. House & Lot; One storey with basement. Two (2) livings rooms; Four (4) bedrooms, six (6) toilet & bath, library. Swimming Pool, CHB Fence and Steel Gate. LA - 1,500 sq.m. FA - 587 00 sq.m.	P 38,000,000.00
KMB 155	No. 332 Uranus Street. Dreamland Manila Subdivision, Mandaluyong City. Two (2) Storey Residential Building. LA = 174 sq m.	P 3,000,000.00
KMB 158	No. 662 Trinidad Street, Sta. Cruz Manila. Improved by single storey warehouse building. LA = 444.20 sq m., FA = 286.00 sq.m.	P 16,000,000.00

Angono & Cainta, Area

CODE	LOCATION	SELLING PRICE
KMB 55	Lot 10 Blk. 1 Mission Hills., Brgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal. Vacant Residential Lot – LA – 894 sq m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper. Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of middle to upper middle class subdivision.	P 3,000,000.00
KMB 56	Lot 12 Blk. 1 Mission Hills , Brgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal Vacant Residential Lot – LA – 540 sq m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of middle to upper middle class subdivision.	P 1,800,000.00
KMB 57	Lot 13 Blk. 1 Mission Hills., Brgy Muzon, Angono, Rizal Vacant Residential Lot – LA – 540 sq m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper. Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of a middle to upper middle class subdivision	P 1,800,000.00
KMB 58	Lot 14 Blk. 1 Mission Hills , Brgy Muzon, Angono, Rizal. Vacant Residential Lot – LA – 540 sq m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of middle to upper middle class subdivision.	P 1,800,000.00
KMB 51	Lot 3. Blk 2, Clarkson Street. Sta. Catalina 1, Phase III, Mission Hills Subd., Bgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal. Vacant Lot. LA = 308 sq m	P 1,080,000.00
KMB 29	Lot 2 Blk 156 Karangalan Village, Imelda Ave . Service Road San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal. Apartment and Lot – LA 221 53 sq m Total FA – 443 sq m. Site is about 1.2 km away from Sta Lucia East Shopping Center and about 1.7 km away from Cainta Junction. Improvement is a two-storey four-door reinforced concrete apartment.	P 2,500,000.00

South Luzon Area

CODE	LOCATION	SELLING PRICE
KMB 88	Brgy Sulo Mabini, Batangas Vacant Developmental lot – LA – 427,921 00 sq m . Approximately 5.0 km away from the town proper of Mabini Prominent landmarks are Vistamar Beach Resort and Anilao Beach Resort. Development is perfect for scuba diving, wind surfing swimming & the like.	P 125,000,000.00
KMB 61	Capitol Hills Executive Subd , Trece Martirez City, Cavite Various Vacant Residential Lots - 169 lots ranging from 39 sq m to 72 sq m. lot area Classified as low to economy housing subdivision The subdivision is located at the rear side of Cavite Capitol within the Trece Martirez Town Proper. It is a fully developed subdivision equipped with basic amenities and utilities.	P 1,800.00/sq.m.
KMB 106	Rodeo Hills Subd., Alfonso, Cavite. Vacant Residential lots – 16 lots ranging from 320 sq.m. to 668 sq.m. lot area	P 2,500/sqm to P 3,000/sqm
KMB 107	Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso, Cavite. Vacant Residential Lots – 2 lots with lot areas of 1000 sq.m. and 2000 sq.m.	P 2,000/ sq.m.
KMB 111	Taguntong Hills, Taysan, Legaspi City. House & Lot; LA – 2,548 sq.m.; FA – 507.38 sq.m. Two-storey residence.	P 6,000,000.00
KMB 112	Taguntong Hills, Taysan, Legaspi City. Four Adjoining lots – Aggregate Lot Area – 479 sq.m. Two-storey Townhouse Unit with basement. Overlooking Mayon Volcano.	P 2,600,000.00
KMB 143	Lot 1, Blk. 4 Sampaguita Village, San Pedro, Laguna. House & Lot, improved by One-Storey Residential Building. LA = 323.00 sq.m.	P 1,500,000.00
KMB 144	Lot 833 Plan GSS-877, Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna. Vacant Lot, LA = 841.00 sq.m.	P 1,400,000.00
KMB 163	Lot 35, Blk. 21, Durian Street, West Springville Camella Homes, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite. LA = 80.00 sq.m. FA = 48.00 sq.m.	P 615,000.00

North Luzon Area

CODE	LOCATION	SELLING PRICE
KMB 10 KMB 11	Unit #2 & Unit #3 Eagle Crest Townhouse Phase 1, Bakakeng Norte Road. Baguio City. Townhouse Unit – LA – 120 sq.m. & FA – 182 sq.m. Eagle crest is about 3 km. away from Marcos Highway. Within the vicinity are Tierra Crest Villas, Richmond Estate, Ciudad Grande & Richgate Subd. The unit is a 3-level townhouse w/ basement which consists of 2 big BR & 3 T&B. It is also equipped with fireplace and water supply is substantial. Public transportation is available within the site.	P 2,000,000.00 (each)
KMB 26	Lots 17 & 18 Blk. 6 Graceville Subd., Brgy. Muzon, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. House and Lot – LA - 480 sq.m. FA 200 sq.m. Consists of 2 contiguous lots at 240 sq m. each. Graceville Subd. is a developed subdivision equipped with basic amenities and utilities. Improvement is a 2-storey residence with 3 BR & 2 T&B, CHB fence and steel gate.	P 918,000.00
KMB 92	Kabukiran Homes Bgy. Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan. Residential Subdivision: *Few lots left!* Lot area ranges from 60 to 160 sq.m. Houses – FA-30 sq.m. Semi-developed Lots Undeveloped Lots	P 1,500/sq.m.-lot P 5,500/sqm.house P 1,000/sqm.(cash) P 500/sq.m.(cash)
KMB 36	Lot 6 Blk. 1 Hilltop Subd., Sumacab District, Cabanatuan City. House and Lot – LA – 240 sq.m Very near Maharlika Highway where the newly constructed NE Pacific Mall is located. TWO (2) one-storey residences with FA of 58 sq.m. and 65 sq.m. Equipped w/ deepwell , CHB & cyclone wire fence.	P 475,000.00
KMB 120	Unit AT-A2, Amville Court Townhomes, Justice Village, Marcos Hi-way, Resid. Sec. A, Baguio City. Three (3) storey townhouse. FA = 106.00 sq.m.	P 1,650,000.00
KMB 121	Unit AT-A7, Amville Court Townhomes, Justice Village, Marcos Hi-way, Resid. Sec. A, Baguio City. 3 storey townhouse. FA = 108.00 sq.m.	P 1,650,000.00
KMB 122	Unit AT-A8, Amville Court Townhomes, Justice Village, Marcos Hi-way, Resid. Sec. A, Baguio City. 3 storey townhouse. FA = 108 00 sq.m.	P 1,650,000.00
KMB 123	Unit AT-A9, Amville Court Townhomes, Justice Village, Marcos Hi-way, Resid. Sec. A, Baguio City. 3 storey townhouse. FA = 108 sq.m.	P 1,650,000.00
KMB 146	Lot 19, Blk. 1, Road Lot 4, Hilltop Subdivision, Cabanatuan City. Improved by Single Storey Residential Building.	P 1,500,000.00
KMB 149	Lot 18, Blk. 1, Road Lot 4, Hilltop Subdivision, Cabanatuan City. Improved by Single Storey Residential Building.	P 1,500,000.00

VIZ-MIN Area

CODE	LOCATION	SELLING PRICE
KMB 63	Guinobatan, Leganes, Iloilo. Residential/Agricultural – LA – 7,982 sq.m. Land – 4,676 sq.m. Agri - 2,000 sq.m	P 1,200,000.00
KMB 93	No. 28-A Sta. Barbara. Zamboanga City. House & Lot – LA-500 sq.m.; FA-191.70 sq.m Improved by a 4-bedroom residential bungalow. Approximately 200 meters from Veterans Avenue	P 1,300,000.00
KMB 108	No. 613 Aguho St.. Juna Subd., Matina, Davao City. House & Lot – LA – 1,200 sq.m. adjoining lots; FA – 374 sq.m. One storey residence with basement /carport	P 6,000,000.00
KMB 157	Corner Muelle Loney Street, Iloilo City. Vacant Lot. LA = 914.00 sq.m.	P 18,000,000.00
KMB 152	Bgy Sulangan, Dumangas, Iloilo. Riceland, LA = 55,779.00 sq.m.	P 1,800,000.00
KMB 153	Buenaflor Street, Dumangas, Iloilo. Adjoining residential and commercial lots LA = 581 00 sq.m. (aggregate)	P 820,000.00
KMB 154	Bgy. Tabuc, Pontevedra, Capiz. Fish Pond. LA = 18.875 sq.m.	P 3,500,000.00
KMB 160	L. J. Ledesma Subdivision, Bgy. Buhang, Jaro, Iloilo City Consisting of 63 vacant Residential Lots. LA = 4,049.00 sq.m. (aggregate)	P 2,000.00/sq.m.

Prices, interest rates and terms are subject to change without prior notice. **As of March 2001.**

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Q. How many shuffles will mix a deck of cards thoroughly?

A. Seven ordinary, home-style shuffles will thoroughly mix a deck of 52 cards. Most people, however, shuffle cards only three or four times, leaving many of the cards in their original sequences. Magicians and card cheats use this fact to improve their odds of winning. Once the order of cards in a deck is known, shuffle and cut it three times. Then take a card out, look at it, and put in somewhere else in the deck. A magician or gambler worth his wand or chips can identify the card with near certainty! It takes 9 shuffles to mix two decks thoroughly, and 12 shuffles to mix six decks.

For the Record. Long before playing cards appeared in Europe, the Chinese had a sort of pack with designs based on their paper money (considered the world's first). The Indians had a pack with religious designs based on the various incarnations of the Hindu god Vishnu. It is not known exactly how cards spread to Europe but their first mention occurs in a French sermon of 1377 castigating gambling. Their popularity spread fast and by the 1400 had already been banned for encouraging gambling in Florence (Italy), Basle (Switzerland) and other cities.

Past Forward. This day in 1888: A Frenchman named Emile Roger made the first recorded purchase of an automobile, a gasoline-driven Benz. The two-horsepower single-cylinder car, a three-wheeled seater, was forwarded to Paris in four packing-cases from Karl Benz's motor factory in Mannheim, Germany.

WORD WATCH

Arangkada: from the Spanish *arrancador*, 'starter (of a vehicle or motor).'

PDI - - March 18, 2001

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-06-89, 900-04-74
Fax. No. (045) 900-00-92

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY** and/or **INSTALLATION** of:

Package 002-2001: 5 – MVA SUBSTATION ACCESSORIES AT MADAPDAP RESETTLEMENT (R.V. 390)
Package 003-2001: NEA Subsidy for expansion of DX Line at Santa Rita

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga, Pampanga from **March 20, 2001** to **March 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 P.M. on **March 27, 2001**.

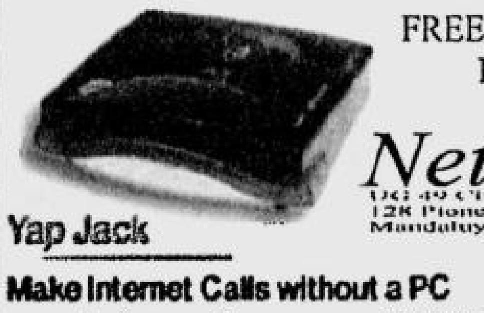
Pre-Qualification meeting is scheduled on **March 28**, at 10:00 AM at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

All pre-qualified bidders may obtain the necessary bid documents after paying a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) Main office at San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga starting March 28 to April 3, 2001.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II – PBAC

(PDI – March 18, 19 & 20, 2001)



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INVITATION TO INTERESTED CONTRACTORS

The U.S. Embassy, Manila has a requirement for packing, freight handling, forwarding, cargo storage, customs clearance and other shipment related services that apply to shipments originating from, consigned to, routed through and/or moved within the geographic areas of Manila, Cebu, La Union, Tarlac and Baguio.

Target Date of Release of Solicitation: 03/26/01
Target Date of Submission of Offers: 04/26/01

At a minimum, each firm must meet the following requirements:

(a) Be able to understand written and spoken English;
(b) Have an established business with a permanent address and telephone listing;
(c) Have the necessary personnel, equipment, and financial resources available to perform the work;
(d) Have the ability to obtain a performance/guarantee bond and a payment bond, or to post adequate performance security, such as irrevocable letters of credit or guarantees issued by a reputable financial institution;
(e) Have no adverse criminal record;
(f) Have no political or business affiliation which could be considered contrary to the interests of the United States.

Interested contractors capable of providing these services are invited to submit a letter of intent to participate in the solicitation on or before 4:00 p.m. on March 23, 2001 to the Contracting Officer, American Embassy, Manila, through fax # 833-8203. If you wish to hand carry your letter, fax the following information at least one (1) day in advance for prior approval: Name of company; name of representative; date and time of arrival; make, model, color and plate number of vehicle (if any). No telephone request will be considered. The Contracting Office is located at the General Services Office (GSO) Building, Seafront Compound, Pasay City. Contact person are Rhoda E. Songcuan and Noel Arturo G. Ocampo who can be reached at 523-1001 Loc. 2787 or 2747.

(PDI--March 17 & 18, 2001)

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Inviting all former EEI Employees to a GET-TOGETHER on APRIL 20, 2001, 6:30 pm at the Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills. For details, you can call or register with any of the following:

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Tagaytay RshNew Vac Hse 316m² 200FA titled near church Our Mother of Perpetual Help 0464134249

OTHER AREAS

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•Cavite H&L P681T LA70m² FA50m² In house 2stry 4133313•7217162

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LOT

MANILA

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Posadas Vil 300m² cor. Lot visit: www.geocities.com /familylot or Call 887-3378 0917-5380320 JAY

PARANAQUE

Soledad Ave 500m² RUSH 7196088

PASIG

Along C-Raymundo 3840m² @ 7.8T/m² 30%DP BalTerms Tel 6811766 DBO

QUEZON CITY

E. Rodriguez (Espana Ext) QC 2407m² T3730597 Noli

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● West Tri. 434 ● P10.8M Old Hse DBO 721-5226

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

SFDM 519sqm 815-0298 655-8371 CP 09194037225

Xaviervllle Phase I Prime Prop nr Main Gate 467sqm Rush Sale Tel 4260890•09176482420

NEOPOLITAN nr Clubhse & SMFview 4lots all adjacent 2corner 9411487 ; 9420080

RIZAL

Nicel Baras Farm 1.5H 635-0462

246m² 3.9T/m² VISTA VERDE Cainta 6467425

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VILLAGE EAST CAINTA 361m² Dir. Buyers 8510825

SAN JUAN

Ghills 750 P30M 900 P32-38M SEV Avail 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

3812m² Talisay, Batangas RUSH - Direct 3732158 / 59

180 Park Place Imus 875-3632

3812m² Talisay, Batangas RUSH - Direct 3732158/ 59

Lipa 8T/m² P200F 2T/m² P250F 0437788042

•MOLINO CAVITE• beside Springville Gardens 11Tm² 750m² 8264056;09189157784

Puerto Princesa good 4 fstfood bank 0917-3711210

•San Jose Bulacan P1800 /alng Sta Maria Road & Bus/ Jeepline Terms 4133313 •7217162•3623715

San Pablo City Proper 1251sqm LOT w/Fence Nr Hway 633-1838 Ofc Hrs

Sta Crz Lag 3h P150/m² 0437788042

OTHER AREAS

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Nr Clark Angeles Heritage Plc 356² P3000/sq neg 929-9548

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MANILA

Bnew w/garage Singalong nr St. Anthony 2.8MT 5246160

Sandejas St. nr La Salle & St. Scho 3BR/3TB w/tel LA66m² FA109m² 1 Garage P2.7M C/T JERRY 8722936

MANDALUYONG

2BR,2TB,w/garage Sulatan St. near Goldi/McDo-Boni P2.5M Neg. •Tel#:5320265•

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw Furnished Studio Type w/Phone 8150298 CP 09194037225

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MARIKINA

★Nr St Scho-Mall 948-3171

PARANAQUE

Bet Liv 2stry 09176011115

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RIZAL

2Stry,3BR,2TB,P1.6M(neg) Cainta •8853226•8495336•

Dacon Subd. P1.3M 3BR 2TB Nr. Makro Sta Lucia 650-5973

Montalban 350T 913-0393

New 4BR 3T&B Marble Flr LA101m² FA160m² Sale P1.4M V.East 9137892 / 141-247311

PROVINCIAL

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RIZAL

SMF'view 3Tw/tel H²06468155

SAN JUAN

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HOUSE

MAKATI

2005 Kalachuchi Dasma V. 3BR WDen & Pool 8176115

PARANAQUE

2Stry w/ Fence 3Br 1Tb 1 Grge w/ Water Pump Tank Don Galo Nr Coastal Road & Quirino Ave 631-2892 / 0919-5653954 or Pager 141639996 Julie

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BLS 4Bdrm Bung 2T&B w/ tel CALL 8234119/8111582

Hse 4/3brms F'nished or Not Tel AC Off 5666358 Owner 09198344401 4Occu. •BF Homes Exec Paranaque•

QUEZON CITY

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Nr SMCity 4BR 2TB 1Mqtr w garage 30T/mo 9281127

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **FELIX T. LIMCHAYSENG** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 257 Page 53; Book No. II Series of 2001 before Notary Public Dominga F. Calanglang of the City of Las Pinas.
(PDI Mar. 18, 25, Apr 1, 2001)

Las Conchas Royale
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lot : 140 sq.m.
House : 108 sq.m.

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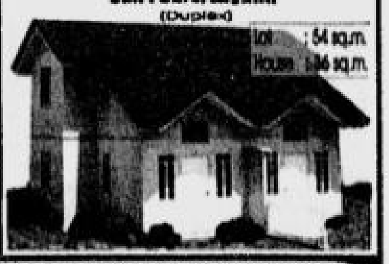

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PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE O, Holy St. Jude Apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted **M.P.D.**

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, mani-fested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

CABUYAO, LAGUNA

Industrial Lot 8.4 hectares

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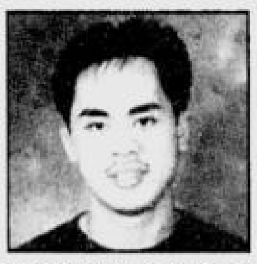
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



FERDINAND "BONG" B. NAPIZA
Address: #25 Annapolis Street, Cubao
Criminal Case No. 43-97926-51
METC Branch 43 Quezon City

The public is notified that the person appearing in the picture is no longer connected with Prudential Life Plan Group in any capacity whatsoever since June 30, 1998.

Please also be advised that this person has a pending Criminal Case, docketed under 43-97926-51 for Estafa, in METC Branch 43 of Quezon City.

(PDI – Mar. 18, 2001)

CEP

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM
REBAP - PASIG CHAPTER
Rack's Restaurant,
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Saturdays 8-5 p.m.
Romy Judan - 641-7882 /
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

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NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS AND THE PUBLIC AUCTION THEREOF

WHEREAS, the herein described items/goods were separately imported and landed on various dates at the Port of Manila (POM), which up to the present no Customs Import Entry has been filed thereon respectively or if such entry has been filed, no further claim/adjudication was made thereto by respective Consignee/Importer or such rightful claimant within the period fixed by law to wit:

Consignee	Description	Reg. No.	Date Arrived	Location
Pedro B. Mercado	2 units Sofa, 4 units Speaker 4 pcs. Plastic Chair 6 pcs. Wooden Chair 3 ctns. Cassette Tape 4 pcs. Wooden Cabinet 2 units Baby Stroller etc. (from Cont'r. # MISU-118938-7 20')	MIS-0111	07-11-99	Whse. # 1
Logo Athletic, Inc.	120 ctns. asstd. Sweat Shirt (from Cont'r. #CAXU-614963-3)20'	TMA-010	06-29-00	Whse. # 1
World Consolidation	127 ctns Picnic Bag (from Cont'r. #CYLU-226662-8 20')	WLC-031	05-03-00	Whse. # 1
Sawadee Marketing	55 ctns. Dustbin Plastic w/ cover, 55 ctns. Mini Dustin, 310 ctns. all purpose Sponge 170 ctns. All purpose Sponge 60 ctns. Plastic Fork and Soup Laddle, 25 ctns. Children's Lunch Box etc. (from Cont'r. # EMCU-9152001 40')	UGM-021	04-04-00	Whse. # 1
Unknown	1 unit Chevrolet, Suburban Van, 1990' Lhd. Chassis # JGNGR26R42LF172760			Phil. Motors Assn. (PMA)
Unknown	1 unit Nissan Laurel Lhd, 87' Lhd. Chassis # L24695112 color White.			PMA
Unknown	1 unit Volks Golf 2-dr. Lhd. 86' Chassis #07027702 color White			PMA
Unknown	1 unit Hyundai Pony 4-dr. Lhd. 87' KMAPA-21DPJU346598, L. Bue			PMA
Unknown	1 unit Cherokee Jeep V6 4x4 Lhd. 85' Chassis # 1JCWC77-36FT094174, Color Red			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Daewoo Racer 4-dr. Lhd, Gray, Chassis No. ATF19YNB511028, Gray			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Chevrolet Ram Van Lhd. '80 Model Chassis # 2B5WB31RHBK226250, Red			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Toyota Lite Ace Van Lhd. 88' 4YC232602 White			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Hyundai Pony 4-dr. Lhd. 87' Chassis No. KMPHA-21APU332295, Blue			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Tata Sierra 2-dr Lhd. White, Chassis No. MAT377-003R9L03675			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit M-Benz 200, 4-dr. Lhd. 77' Yellow, Chassis No. 12302012046483			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Plymouth Acclaim 4-dr. Lhd. 91' Gray, Chassis No. 1P3XA4637MF700296			PMA
Unknown/EEIB	1 unit Mit. Lancer 4-dr. Lhd. White, Chassis No. JMBSCNC-12AFU402899			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Daewoo Lemans 4-dr. Lhd. Maroon, Chassis #KLATF19TIN-B544234			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Hyundai Galloper 2-dr. V6 92', Gray, Chassis #KMXNUIHPNU016228			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Mit. L-300 Van, Lhd. Maroon, Chassis # I067WQ06340			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Hyundai Galloper 4-dr Lhd. Gray, Chassis KMXKPU1PP029455			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Kia Sportage Turbo, 4-dr, Lhd. M. Blue, Chassis #77 66 38			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Ford Fierra AUB Lhd. Green, Chassis #MN037P-31826			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Mit. Van FB100 (Wreck) Lhd., White			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Mazda T2500 Close Van Lhd. Red			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Mit. Multi Cab, 89', Lhd. White, Chassis # U15T 0130930			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Isuzu Pick-Up 90', Lhd. Red, Chassis # TFR54HE8B400053			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Suzuki Multi Cab Lhd, 90' Blue, Chassis # ST41 190737			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit BMW 750I, 4-dr. V12, Lhd, Gray, Chassis # 44895075			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Nissan 6-wheeler Flat Bed, Lhd, Yellow, Chassis #MGH40031230			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Isuzu Elf 6-wheeler Lhd, White Chassis No. NRR12V3573012			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Mit. Lancer 4-dr 93', Red Chassis # OBIASH01270			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit M-Benz 280SE, Lhd. White, Chassis # WDB1260221A013487			PMA
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Unknown/POM	1 unit M-Benz 280SE Lhd, 83', Yellow Chassis # WDB12602212062345			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Cherokee Jeep 4x4 94', Lhd Gray, Chassis # LE2FJ23H7SC			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit BMW 735I 4-dr. Lhd, 87' WBAGB410903150523, M. Blue			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Mit. Colt Galant (junk) Lhd, 76', M. Blue, Chassis # A114H4800148			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Nissan Pathfinder, 90' Lhd, M. Blue, Chassis No. JN8HD16Y5HW03219			PMA
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Unknown/POM	1 unit Tata Sierra, Lhd, White Chassis # MAT377003RL03454			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit M-Benz 4-dr. Lhd, Silver Chassis # WDBEA30DXNB600834			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit M-Benz 300SE 4-dr. 92' Blue, Chassis # WDBCA24EXLA499138			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Daewoo Racer Eti, 4-dr. 95', Lhd. White, Chassis No. XLATF 19F INB510601			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Hyundai Grandeur V6, Lhd, 93', Black, Chassis No. KMHMF31T-PPU009956			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit T. Land Cruiser Wagon, Lhd, 90', Red			PMA
Unknown/EIIB	1 unit Toyota Prado Wagon, Lhd., Brown			PMA
Unknown/EIIB/POM	1 unit Hyundai Grandeur V6, Lhd, 93' Black, Chassis No. KMHMF31WPR11043447			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Hyundai Grandeur V6, Lhd, 93' Black, Classis No. KMHMF31TPR1140693			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Hyundai Grandeur Lhd, Gray, Chassis No. KMHMF21SPN11085683			PMA
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Unknown/POM	1 unit Daewoo Maepsy (junk) Lhd, Blue Chassis # 303817DTM691126			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Toyota Hi-Ace Van, Lhd, White, Chassis # LH61V0146019			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Nissan Cedric 4-dr (junk) Lhd, Chassis # 430343142, White			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Chevy Corsica LT, Lhd, D. Blue Chassis # IGILT5341PY251906			PMA
Unknown/Malacanang	1 unit Hyundai Grandeur, 4dr. Chassis No. KMHNF21SPN11082175 Silver			PMA
Unknown/POM	1 unit Hyundai Grandeur 4-dr. Black Chassis # KMHNF21SPN11083518			PMA
Unknown/	448 pcs. Used Tires asstd. sizes some without rims			PMA

WHEREAS, the failure of the consignee/importer and such other rightful claimants to claim/adjudicate his/her importation shall be deemed to be renunciation of all his interests and property rights in favor of the government pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended by Republic Act 7651, and to be auction after fifteen (15) days from date of posting/advertisement.

SO ORDERED, Port of Manila, Philippines, this 15th day of MARCH 2001.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME**
District Collector
Port of Manila

(PDI - March 18, 2001)

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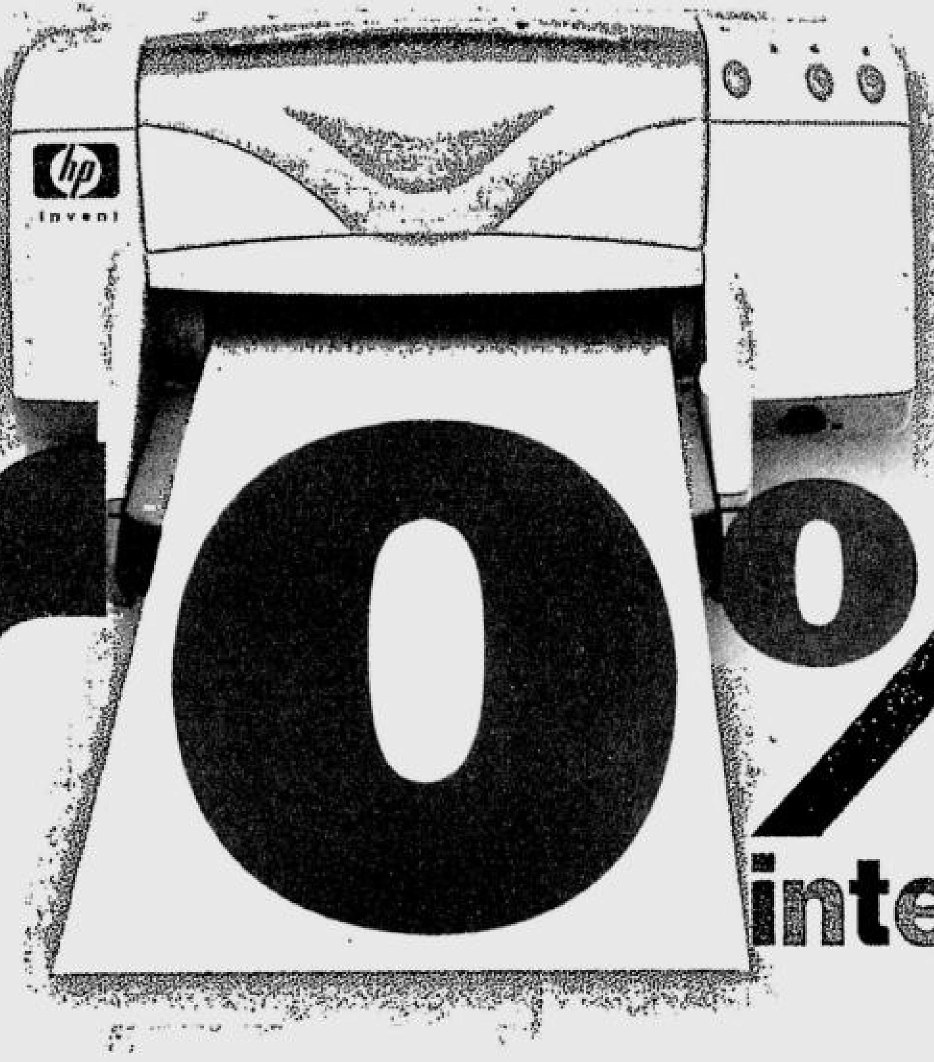

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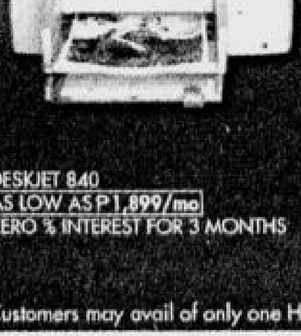

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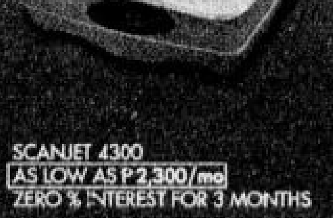

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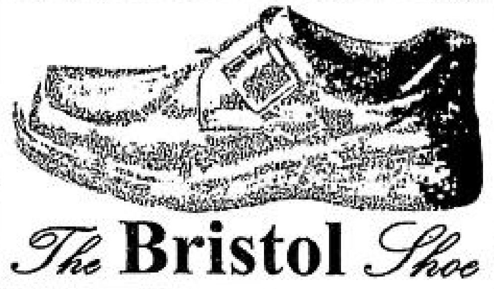
Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor


The Bristol Shoe

SAVE THE STREET CHILDREN. UHF trustees Celee Pamintuan-Tang, Ollie Lucas and Carissa Singson

Bankers on a mission

Women bankers work with street children and realize there's life beyond the cash register and interest rates

Story on page C2

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HOST class High School '76

A coming-out homecoming

SINCE the phase-out of St. Theresa's College-Manila in 1980, alumnae have been holding the homecoming at the Quezon City campus. This year, for the first time in its 72-year history, the St. Theresa's Alumnae Association (STAA) brought the annual get-together outside the college grounds and to a hotel ballroom.

It was a bold move, departing from the traditional idea of a homecoming. But the recent gathering at the Hotel Intercontinental turned out to be one for the books. Tables had to be set up at the ballroom gallery, terrace and a function room to accommodate the spillover crowd. Once the program got going, however, everyone miraculously fit inside the ballroom, with half the audience on their feet.

Singing and dancing

And the program! St. Theresa's is not associated with music, dance or theater, it is best known for its literary heritage, producing many creative writers and journalists. That night Theresians proved they could also sing and dance like pros, with a little help from the real pros.

The HS '41 diamond jubilarians lipsynched and swayed to "Apple Blossom Time," a popular song during their time, while the HS '51 golden jubilarians did a ballroom spin, complete with DI partners, after a serenade by Bert Nievera.

Not to be outdone, the College '61 ruby jubilarians, dazzling in flamingo red dresses with matching dangling earrings, samba'd, while their high school counterparts followed through with the cha cha.

The mood mellowed as the HS '66 coral jubilarians told a Hawaiian story with graceful hand and hip movements. But the HS '71 pearl jubilarians (my batch) picked up the tempo once more, bumpin' and grindin' to "That's The Way (Aha, Aha) I Like It." Costumed in bell-bottoms and paisley or Op Art shirts, Emery Estonina-Olayvar, Vicky Aguilar-Kalingasan, Zane Inonog-Felix, Cora Sagrado-Santos, Candy Melendres-Huang, Ines Basa-Ang and Loree Zalamea triggered a memory rush, to the delight of choreographer Sandy Hontiveros.

Oldest alumna

In between musical numbers, the College '51 golden jubilarians, among them Gilda Cordero-Fernando, received floral crowns from their family members in a traditional *putungan*. The oldest alumna in the audience, College '41 diamond jubilarian Soledad Puyal Boncan, received a bouquet of chrysanthemums and a standing ovation for being "the lone survivor from my class."

Guest performers Leo Martinez, a.k.a. Tong-gressman Manhik Manaog, had the audience in stitches with his wisecracks about show-biz politicos, while his brother-in-law Gary Valenciano, had even the nuns and my 73-year-old mom dancing and clapping with his medley of '70s OPM disco hits. A Theresian before La Salle claimed him, Gary also reminisced his days as one of Mother Redempta's kindergarten pupils.

The real stars of the evening, however, were the HS '76 performers led by his *Ate* Gina Valenciano-Martinez. Sustaining the momentum he began, the silver jubilarians proceeded with their own choreographed medley of popular songs spanning the eras of all the jubilarian classes. The 65 batch members—the biggest group assembled so far for a jubilarian presentation—executed their moves and hit their notes in harmony with such polish, you'd think they had performed as a group before.

Enthusiastic jubilarians

Credit goes to choreographer Bobby Ongkiko, musical arranger Mon Faustino (with my sister Maxie assisting as vocal coach), and most of all, Freddie Santos, who was in charge of concept and direction and who should probably be made an honorary Theresian.

The homecoming began with a Mass, celebrated right inside the ballroom by Fr. Larry Faraon, OP. In a symbolic offering of the entire proceedings to the Lord, the altar was set on the stage, which was designed like a garden in full bloom and illumined by hundreds of tivoli lights.

STAA board member Mila Yu attributed the success of the event to the enthusiasm of the jubilarian classes, singling out the host class, HS '76, specifically the steering committee composed of Alice Adia-Yao, Connie Carag-Vergara, Taleng Abeleda-Riviello, Chinky Araw-Marfori, Joybelle Samson-Cinco, Tissa Roxas-Tan, Marivic Querubin-Aro, Minnie Castro-Herrera and Gina Valenciano-Martinez.

In any homecoming, the most poignant moment is always the singing of the college hymn. It rekindles the sense of community among Theresians, reminding us that regardless of the paths we took after we left our San Marcelino home, there will always be a part of our lives we share with one another. When one thinks about it, the real homecoming is looking into our hearts.

Angelina G. Goloy

Dr. Gene Abes

KISSING AND OTHER WAYS OF SPREADING SORE THROAT

Dr. Gene Abes, a Master of Public Health graduate, is the chairman of the ENT Department of the Philippine General Hospital.

You see it happening everyday. But you never suspect the harm until it's too late. That intimate greeting or that friendly handshake has just infected another person with sore throat. That person could be you. In today's column, let's take a look at some of the many seemingly harmless ways that sore throat is spread.

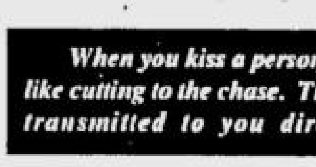
HOW DO YOU GET INFECTED?

Sore throat is frequently caused by viruses and bacteria. These two kinds of agents spread by direct or indirect contact.

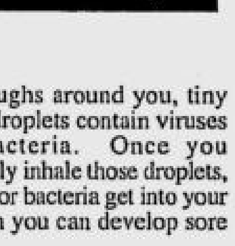
> ***When you kiss a person who has sore throat, it's like cutting to the chase. The viruses or bacteria are transmitted to you directly through saliva.***

DIRECT CONTACT

When somebody sneezes or coughs around you, tiny droplets are spread in the air. These droplets contain viruses and/or bacteria. Once you unknowingly inhale those droplets, the viruses or bacteria get into your throat, then you can develop sore throat.

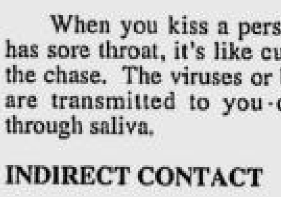


When you kiss a person who has sore throat, it's like cutting to the chase. The viruses or bacteria are transmitted to you directly through saliva.



INDIRECT CONTACT

When you touch an object that has been coughed on or contaminated by a person with sore throat, you also run the risk of getting infected if, for example, you forget to wash your hands before you eat.



You also get infected if you use the same utensils used by a person with sore throat. Drinking from the same glass or using the same fork and spoon brings you into contact with the virus or bacteria.

WEAKENING OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

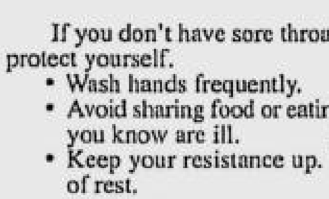
There are evidences coming out now that you may develop sore throat because the actual sore throat-causing bacteria are already in your throat. This is something I've discussed previously. Within our throat reside relatively harmless bacteria that are part of the normal flora. However, when your resistance goes down, the bacteria proliferate and increase in number, thereby causing a disease. It's not enough to just avoid contact with other people who are infected. It's also important to stay healthy.

HOW TO AVOID GETTING INFECTED

If you don't have sore throat yet, here are a few ways to protect yourself.

- Wash hands frequently.
- Avoid sharing food or eating utensils with people whom you know are ill.
- Keep your resistance up. Eat properly and get plenty of rest.
- Gargle with oral antiseptics, particularly those containing hexetidine. This can reduce the amount of bacteria residing in your throat, whether they're part of you or you picked them up from somebody else.

HOW TO AVOID INFECTING OTHERS



If you already have sore throat, here are a few ways to keep it from spreading further.

- Avoid close contact with others for about 24-48 hours.
- Use tissues when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands before touching food or food-related items such as dishes, glasses, silverware or napkins.
- Wash your hands after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Be careful not to let your nose or mouth touch public telephones or drinking faucets,

And one last thing, if you do have sore throat, take a short break from kissing other people. Take good care of yourself and hopefully, you won't have to go without kissing for too long.

Next week, Dr. Abes will explain when to and when not to take antibiotics for sore throat treatment.

Hexetidine
Bactidol

Leaves bacteria dead.

BANKERS with hearts on a mission

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Bankers on a mission

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

FOUR accomplished bankers, all high-powered women leading quiet, comfortable lives step out of their comfort zones early each Saturday morning to care for and teach street children and the less fortunate that inhabit the roads and slum areas of Pasig and Mandaluyong. Ollie Lucas, Celee Pamintuan-Tang, Carissa Singson and Cristy Orbeta are the driving force behind Unang Hakbang Foundation (UHF), a nonprofit organization that aims to uplift the plight of street children and urban poor communities in the Pasig-Mandaluyong area.

A mission, a calling

Ollie had been with Chemical Bank for close to 30 years when she decided to "retire" and devote more of her time to cause-oriented projects which she had already been active in. "I wanted to be able to give back something to the community, to be of service," she says. Called "visionary" by her co-trustees in the UHF, Ollie often lays the groundwork for many of UHF's projects. "She was the first one to be involved in this and she dragged me into it," Celee ribs.

Celee, on the other hand, had been looking for something to do after retiring from a two decades-plus career at Credit Lyonnaise. "I had always wanted to do something like this but initially, my heart was not quite into it," she says. "Then, one afternoon, I heard this Jesuit priest say (in a talk at her daughter's school) that the problem with parents is that they want to do community service but they do it at their own convenience. Wow, that really struck me and hit me hard." After that, Celee took a look at her closet filled with designer clothing and had a major crisis of conscience. "I thought to myself, gosh, I have enough clothes to last me a lifetime that I don't really need. Doing quick calculations in her head, her heart felt empty when she realized how all that money that went to clothes could have fed countless street children and perhaps help kept them off the street. From then on, her perspective took a 180-degree turn and now, Celee, like her other three co-trustees, has become UHF's most ardent supporter.

Heading an Italian bank at thirtysomething, Carissa was looking for a channel for her mothering instincts and at the same time, a way to give back for all the blessings given her. "There was a void that somehow needed to be filled and at the same time, I wanted also to be able to give back to the community." Carissa has somehow managed to fill the void by teaching and empowering mothers every Saturday at her classes at the Welfareville Center in Mandaluyong. "Her programs are fantastic," Ollie says of Carissa. "The way she has empowered and given hope to these women is admirable."

Caring shelters

Presently, UHF runs three children's centers—the Bahay ni San Francisco at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church in Mandaluyong and at its community-based centers in Barangays Sto. Tomas and San Nicolas in Pasig. Bahay ni San Francisco provides shelter to the children that ply the streets of Mandaluyong. These are the young boys and girls that you see around the malls that populate the area. Whereas before these young children would take "showers" in the fountains that dot the nearby malls, they now have a place where they can shower, change, have a decent meal, rest and learn some lessons. The children are a mix of those who come from unhappy homes and those who need to work the streets to earn a living. They do this by earning money from being "barkers," or watch-your-car boys. "In many cases, they would rather be on the streets than in their homes because there is so much bickering between their mothers and fathers. They'd rather escape," Ollie says. The center is open from early afternoon till about 9 p.m., though UHF's dream is to really keep the center open all night long until early the next morning. "When night falls, that's when the problems come in, you know, rugby and those sort of things," Ollie says sadly. "We hope to be able to find someone, preferably male, who would be willing to volunteer and man the center during the wee hours of the morning," she adds wistfully.

Over at Welfareville in Mandaluyong, there are classes that teach women arts, crafts, livelihood projects, basic reading and writing. Carissa has committed practically entire Saturdays, empowering in her own little way, the women that come to the centers for these "Mother's Class" as they are called. "It is so heartening to see their self-esteem rise as they begin to learn all these new skills. *Nakakataba ng puso*."

Truly, all these women agree that the rewards that come with the commitment they have pledged are intrinsic and go beyond words. "We are supposed to give five hours a week of community service but we end up giving so much more," Celee says with a laugh. "It costs roughly P50,000 a month to maintain all the centers, pay the staff, etc.," Ollie says. "But the rewards that have come, seeing these children transform right before your very eyes, seeing hope fill their souls cannot be quantified. And, it's really great fun for us, too, to be able to help all these kids."

Talon, Takbo, Likha

This summer, UHF embarks on its biggest and first-ever summer workshop for street children. Scheduled to run for six weeks with preregistration to begin on March 24, the workshop will feature classes in sports, crafts, music and dance activities. "We hope to reach over 1,600 children between the ages of 6-16 who live in the areas of Welfareville and Santo Tomas and San Nicolas in Pasig," Celee says. "We are hoping that the workshops will promote discipline, sportsmanship, literacy, skills formation and healthy values for a drug-free lifestyle," Carissa adds. The Philippine Taekwondo Association, the Angono Artists Association, Adarna Books and Museo Pambata have committed to help make the workshop a fun learning experience for the children.

"Just as we enroll our children in various courses during the summer, we also hope to be able to give the same kind of learning activities for these children," Ollie says. The program also promotes environmental consciousness among the participants through a unique registration procedure: Each child seeking entry into the summer program will be required to submit P10 worth of recyclable materials. Registrants will also receive briefings on recycling and its importance, potential and uses.

No mean feat

The summer workshop is no mean feat and UHF is in dire need of volunteers—students, young professionals, housewives who are willing to volunteer their time and resources to assist in this most worthy endeavor. Volunteers are expected to assist in the activities as either teacher-trainers, coordinators for logistics, documentation or communication, and team leaders for the children's scheduled activities. An affinity for children, a strong sense of responsibility or simply a desire to be part of a meaningful, memorable activity are all that is required of the applicant. Full-time and part-time opportunities are open to some 200-plus individuals who wish to participate in this humanitarian, learning experience.

For those with the funds but not the time—sponsors are invited to cover the cost of the program either by sponsoring a child at P600 per child or giving monetary support in whatever capacity. Corporate sponsorships are most welcome, too. Trust the women bankers to get their numbers right and keep the books clean. "Everything is in an Excel file," Ollie grins.

The discipline acquired from years of being in the banking industry coupled with compassion that has come from hearing the stories of the children they have helped transform, have made the UHF ladies all the more determined to raise a million pesos for this laudable project that they hope will reach out to more than a thousand children.

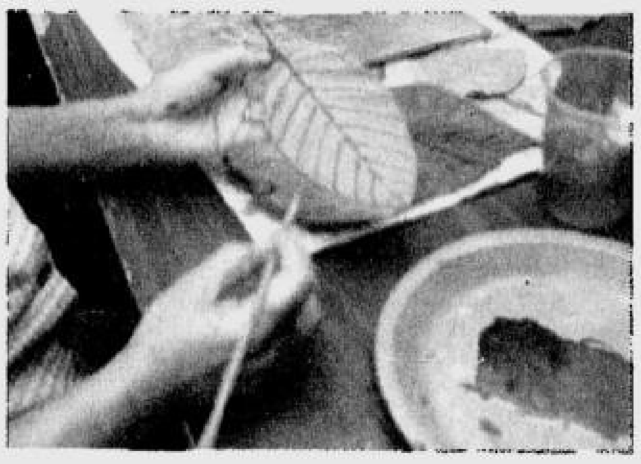
It is these ladies' desire to change the world, give hope and improve the future, one child at a time. So take that Escada out of the closet and auction it, or set aside some money intended for that Asian jaunt and improve the life of a child from the streets. Better yet, commit time to the workshop—we guarantee it will make for a memorable summer and leave an imprint in your heart that will change you forever.

Call UHF at 723-9616/4367 or e-mail olivia@unlimited.net.ph

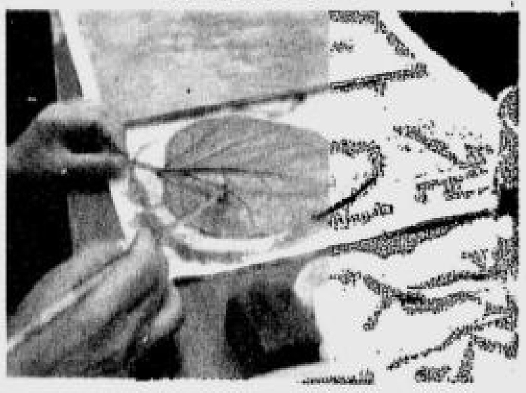
E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Give old things a brand-new stamp

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA



1. PICK the leaf of your choice



2. USING a thin brush, apply acrylic paint at the back of the leaf.

HOW would you like to liven up your house using an old decorative art technique called stamping? Even if you're the world's least artistic person, this classic method can produce a dramatic and striking change in your surroundings—in a very inexpensive way.

STEP BY STEP

Stamping is an easy way to decorate any plain, boring surface and create beautiful, stylish and classy effects. Take an ordinary household furniture, such as a lampshade, a wooden table or a tray, paint it and stamp it with flower petals or leaves and voila! you give a brand-new, stylish look to an old thing.

"Stamping can be a hobby that doesn't take much time," says Carmen Prieto, an artist and decorative arts teacher at the Ayala Museum. "Stamping is a very old method and is the reverse of stenciling. Rather than filling in a stencil cutout with paint and a brush, you apply paint to the stamp and press it onto a surface. Stamps can be made out of wood, hard rubber or metal, and you can even carve your own, as we did years ago in grade school from a potato."

DECORATIVE arts teacher Carmen Prieto

Today, stamping has been revived in a clever way. Ready-made stamps come in a variety of designs centered on a theme like leaves and flower blossoms. This creative technique is truly fun and easy to apply on most surfaces. You can decorate anything from the garden shed, planters and wooden decks to walls, floors and furniture.

Stamping involves applying paint (or ink) to a stamp, either ready-made or personally made, then pressing it against a surface such as paper to instantly apply an image. It is simple enough for children to do but can also be challenging even for the most serious professional artists. Styles can be cute or sophisticated or downright weird.

The most popular type of stamp being used worldwide is rubber. It can be purchased from any toyshop or specialized decorating store. However, you can also make your own stamp using materials around you.

"You don't have to be a highly skilled artist to create your own stamp and achieve stunning results," says Prieto. "The whole point of doing it yourself is to make materials cheaper to have fun."

Not everyone realizes that fruits and vegetables have decorative potentials. Prieto makes use of anything available around the home, like dried leaves, potatoes, okra and bitter melon.

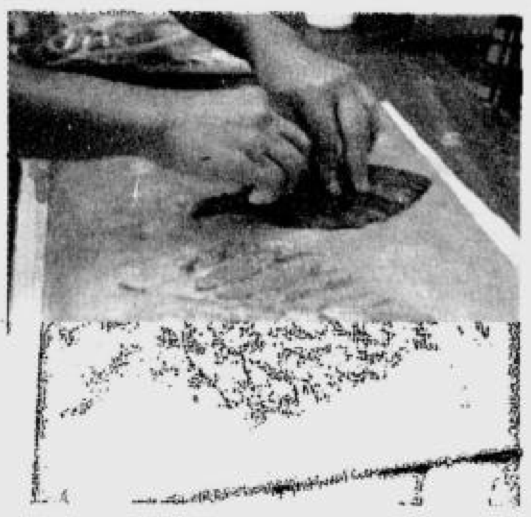
As to what to stamp on, the choice is limitless—ceramic plates, tiles and vases, glass tumblers, wineglasses, wooden boxes, frames, cupboards, lampshades and oven gloves and many more. Stamping is also ideal for greeting cards.

Easy-to-do stamping guide

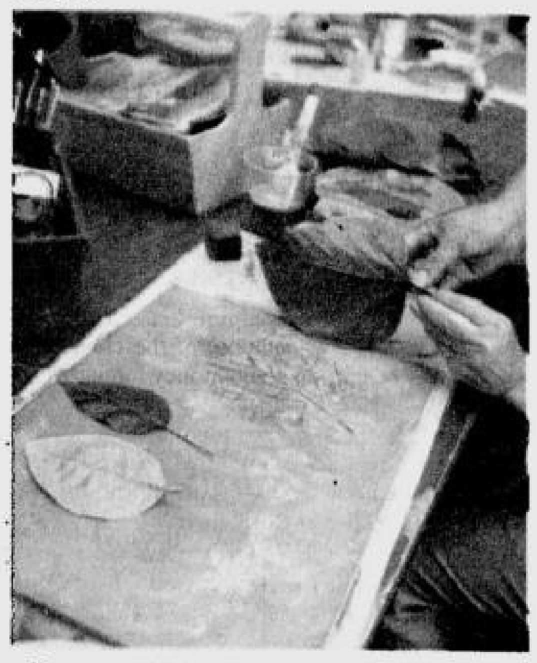
Very little preparation is needed for stamping. The materials you need are acrylic paint, paper plate, a thin brush, polyurethane water-based varnish and a cutter (optional). Make sure surfaces are clean and nongreasy. Then, pick a pattern—*gumamela*, papaya or mango leaves; and for vegetables, potato, gourd, okra or bitter melon:

Pour a little paint into a paper plate or saucer.

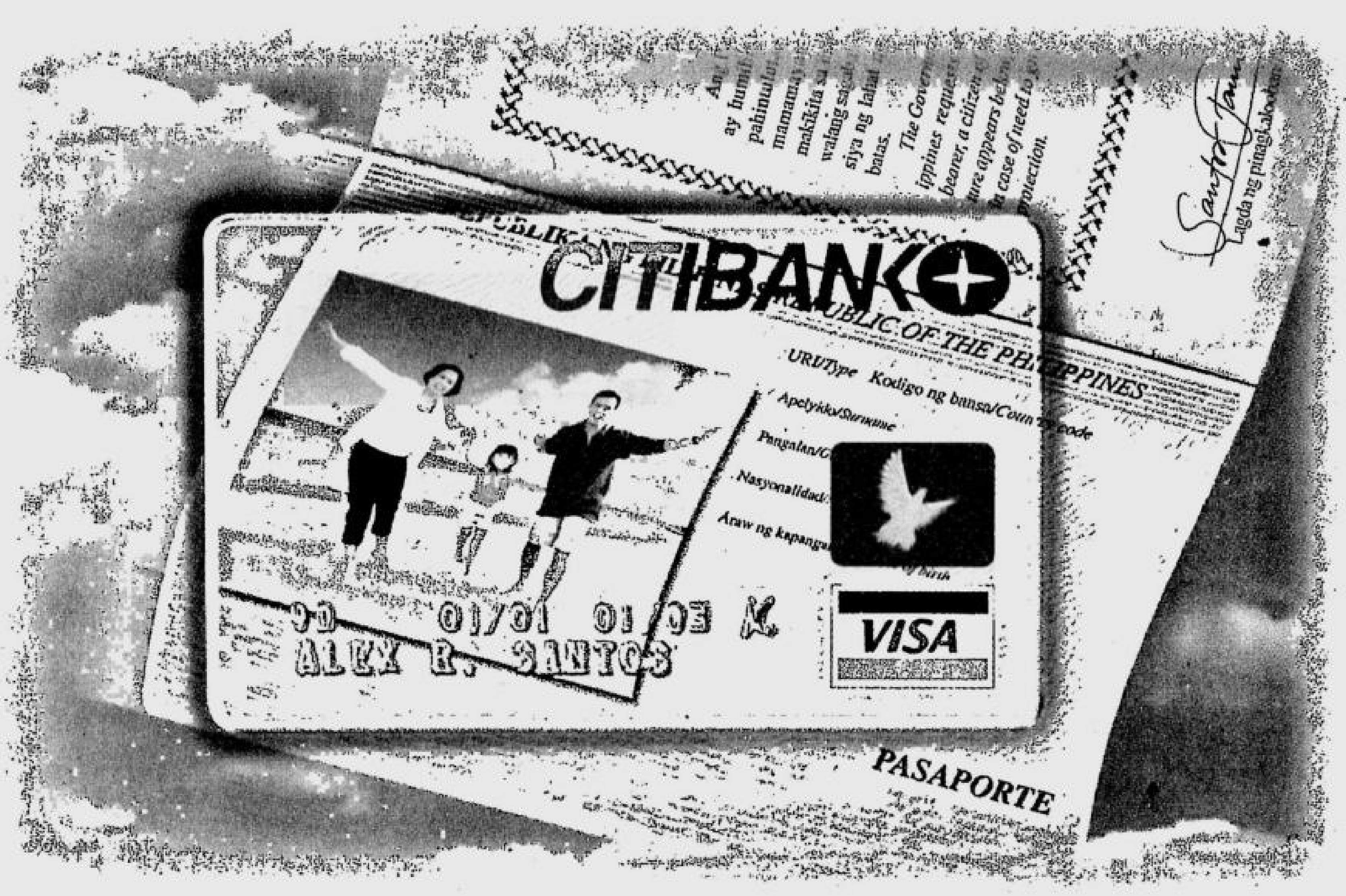
GIVE/ p.C6



3. IMMEDIATELY after painting, press the leaf onto the desired surface and hold for a few seconds. You may use a sponge to press the leaf.



4. CAREFULLY flip the leaf to see the impression. Remove without smudging.



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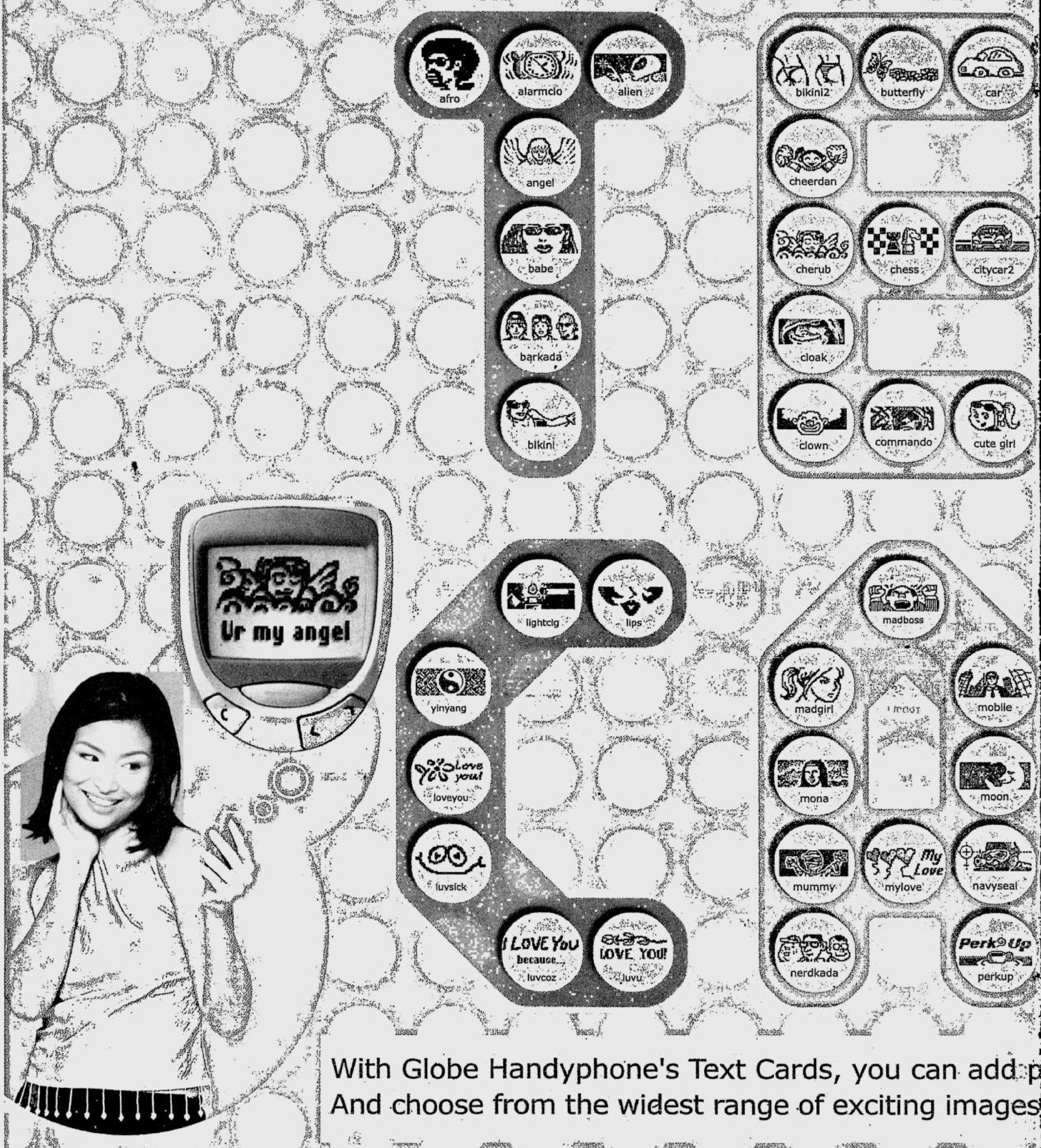
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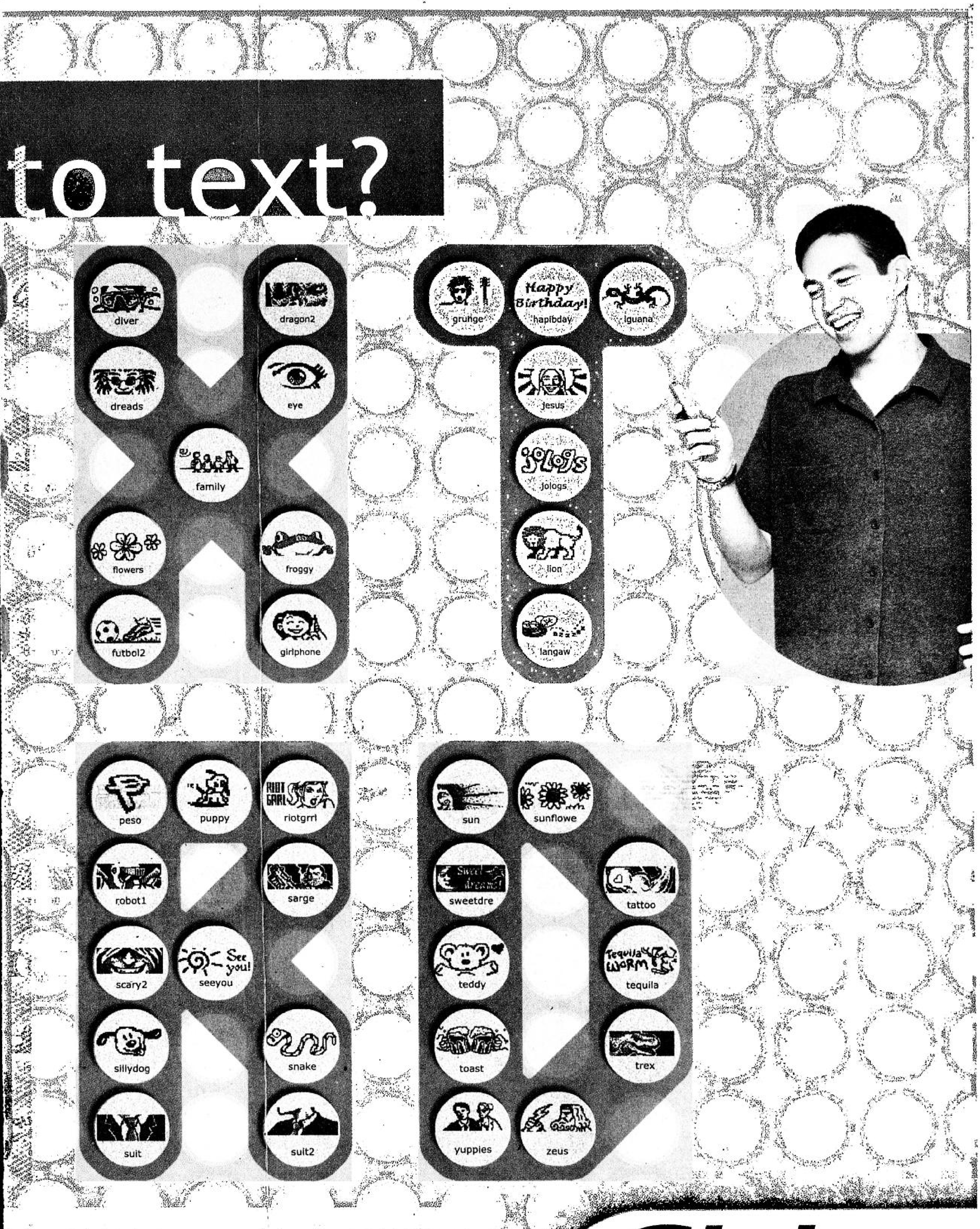
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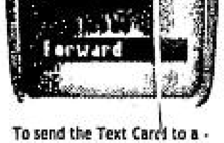

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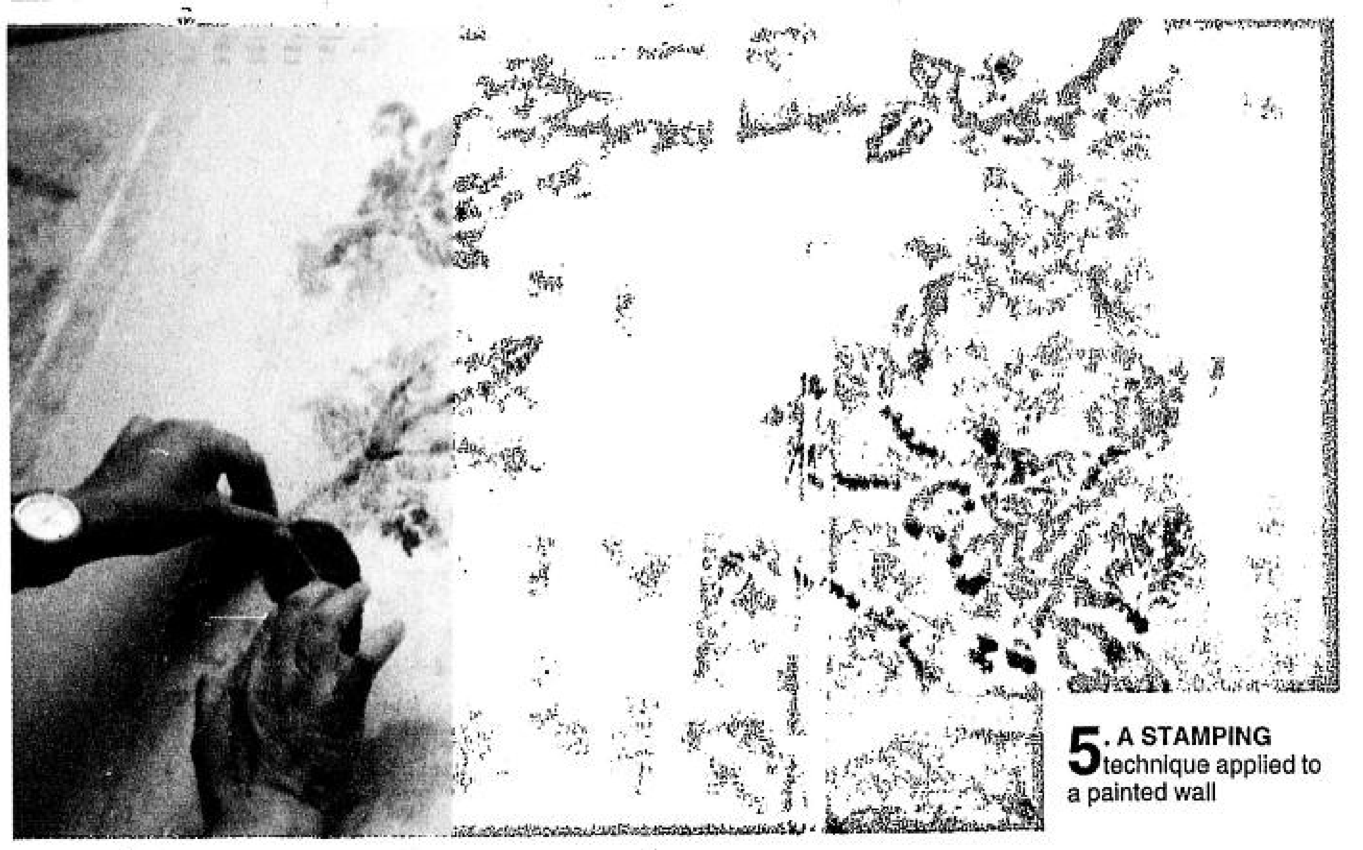


5. **A STAMPING** technique applied to a painted wall

6. **AN EXQUISITE** example of stamping on a table and chair designed by Vangie Go for True Value Home Center

Give old things a brand-new stamp

(From page C3)

Using a thin brush, apply paint onto your pattern. If you opt for a leaf shape, make sure to cover the leaf evenly with paint to define the veins. After applying paint to the stamp, press the stamp firmly against the surface and hold for a few minutes. Carefully remove the stamp without smudging. Repeat the process in the next position.

If you choose a vegetable—for example, okra—as your pattern, just cut the vegetable in the middle to bring out its jagged form. Simply dip the cut vegetable well into the paint, swirl it around to distribute the paint evenly and then transfer it to your selected area. Pick the stamp straight up so that you don't blur the image.

In one simple step, the image left behind will have all the appropriate markings. You can also add more than one color to the stamp pad, creating instant shading. So in one move you have all the ingredients for a beautiful embossed image. Or, if you want, you can move your stamp to the next position and repeat the process three or four times without adding more paint and you will get graduations in color and shading.

To seal the pressed design, apply varnish onto the surface. Varnish protects the design from peeling off. You will not need the varnish if you stamp on the wall or on any surface that does not suffer from wear and tear.

Carmen Prieto conducts regular classes on decorative arts at the Ayala Museum. Call 812-1191.

If you have any suggestion for our step-by-step crafts, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

A night of Pinoy music at QC Circle

THE SUNDAY Evenings at the Circle presents "A Night of Filipino Songs: Himig Pinoy" on March 18, 6-7 p.m., at the Quezon Memorial Circle Liwasang Aurora.

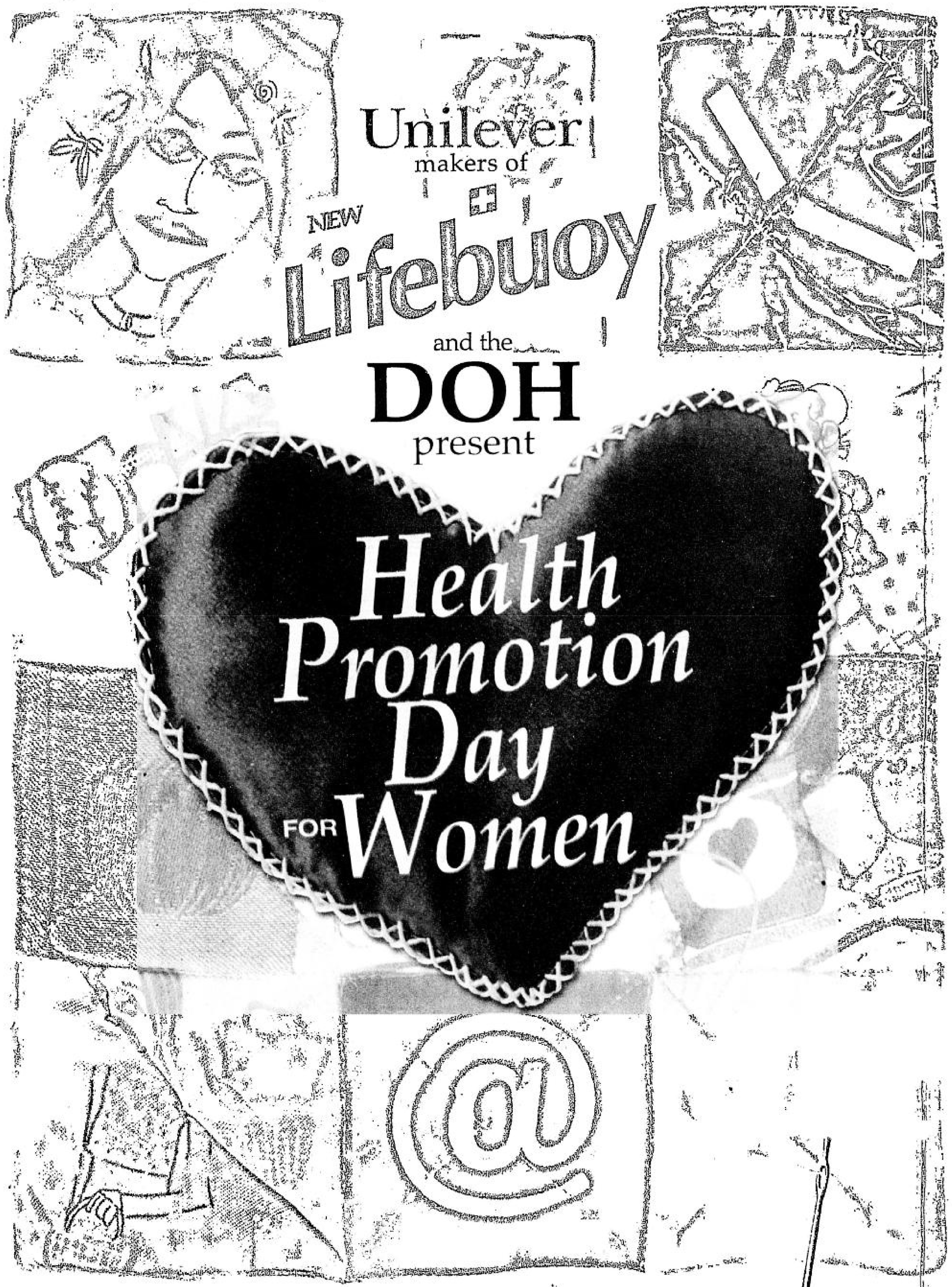
Featured soloist is soprano Josephine Gomez, who has the distinction of being the first Filipino soprano to give concerts in Russia as well as in Brunei Darussalam and in Israel. She also represented the Philippines in the First International Music Festival for the Asia-Pacific region held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia in 1992.

Gomez is the 1997 Parangal ng Bayan awardee for Culture and the Arts and pioneered the Voice Therapy and Rehabilitation or Phoniatrie in the Philippines. She currently runs the Josephine Gomez Clinic for Voice Therapy and Rehabilitation and is the consultant for voice therapy at SM Megamall's Clinica Manila.

Assisting artist is pianist Carlos Perion who holds a Bachelor of Music degree and another degree in piano from the University of Sto. Tomas. Perion also took up master classes under Peter Corragio at the University of Hawaii.

Quezon City Parks Development Foundation president Charito Planas said these cultural shows feature local and international artists as well as promising young talents. It also aims to encourage and support arts and culture programs through publication, exhibition, production, performance, staging and reproduction of original Filipino creations especially in the field of performing arts.

The public is invited. Free admission.



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Libreng health information, service at entertainment

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Health Services buong araw
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May libreng health information at konsulta tungkol sa women's hygiene, physical fitness, nutrition, reproductive health, parenting, at marami pang iba.

Variety Show sa Tanghali
(12:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
Sari-saring palabas at palaro kasama ng inyong paboritong celebrity hosts.

Mini-concert sa gabi
(5:00 pm - 7:00 pm)
Mga sikat na artista. Mag-aalay ng awit, sayaw at katatawanan sa mga kababaihan. Imbitado rin ang buong pamilya.

Sentrong Sigla
DOH

THE STAFF members of My Playroom Kids Care Center at Robinsons Galleria

A playroom that caters to needs of kids and parents at work

A DAY-CARE center complete with fully equipped playroom, manned by well-trained and competent caregivers, is now open at Park Avenue, Robinsons Galleria. Aptly called My Playroom Kids Care Center, it caters to the needs of children ages 1-10 years whose parents are at their work places during the week or are out doing some personal errands on weekends. Located at the corner facing The Handyman, My Playroom is palatial "dreamland," especially designed for children. The fully carpeted play land is furnished with kid-friendly toys and gadgets. Kiddie cartoons and movies can also be viewed on television monitors neatly tucked in cozy corners. Kids will also have fun indulging on PlayStations, mini kiddie rides and taking a dive into the swim balls pit. Learning tools such as books and CD-ROMs are also available.

Special design features were given full attention by the owners of My Playroom. This indoor, fully air-conditioned "playground" has a pantry where kids can be fed by the day-care center's caregivers. There are also toilets especially designed for children.

Rates vary, depending on the day and length of stay. From Mondays to Fridays, My Playroom charges P100 for an hour's stay and P150 for an unlimited stay, while weekend rates, including holidays, are pegged at P120 for an hour's stay and P175 for an unlimited stay. Call 635-7340.

Thomasites' centennial poster released

DECS has been presented with a framed copy of a colorful new poster marking 2001 as the centennial year of the arrival in the Philippines of the Thomasites. They were the 540 American teachers who landed in Manila on Aug. 23, 1901 aboard the US army transport Thomas to establish a modern public school system and introduce English instruction.

On March 6, US Embassy officials presented Education Secretary Raul Roco (right) with a framed copy of the poster. (From left) William E. Bright, US Peace Corps of the Phils. director; public affairs counselor Michael Anderson; charge d'affaires Michael E. Malinowski and economic counselor Mort Holbrook met with Secretary Roco to discuss Philippine-US educational cooperation.

The poster and website (www.thomasites100.org) are efforts by the Thomasite Centennial Project, a joint effort of the US Embassy's Public Affairs Section, American Studies Associations in the Phils., Philippine-American Educational Foundation and leading cultural and educational institutions around the country, to create public awareness of the contributions of the Thomasites to Philippine education. On Aug. 24-25, the American Studies Association of the Phils. will sponsor an international conference at Ateneo de Manila University on American influences on Philippine edification.

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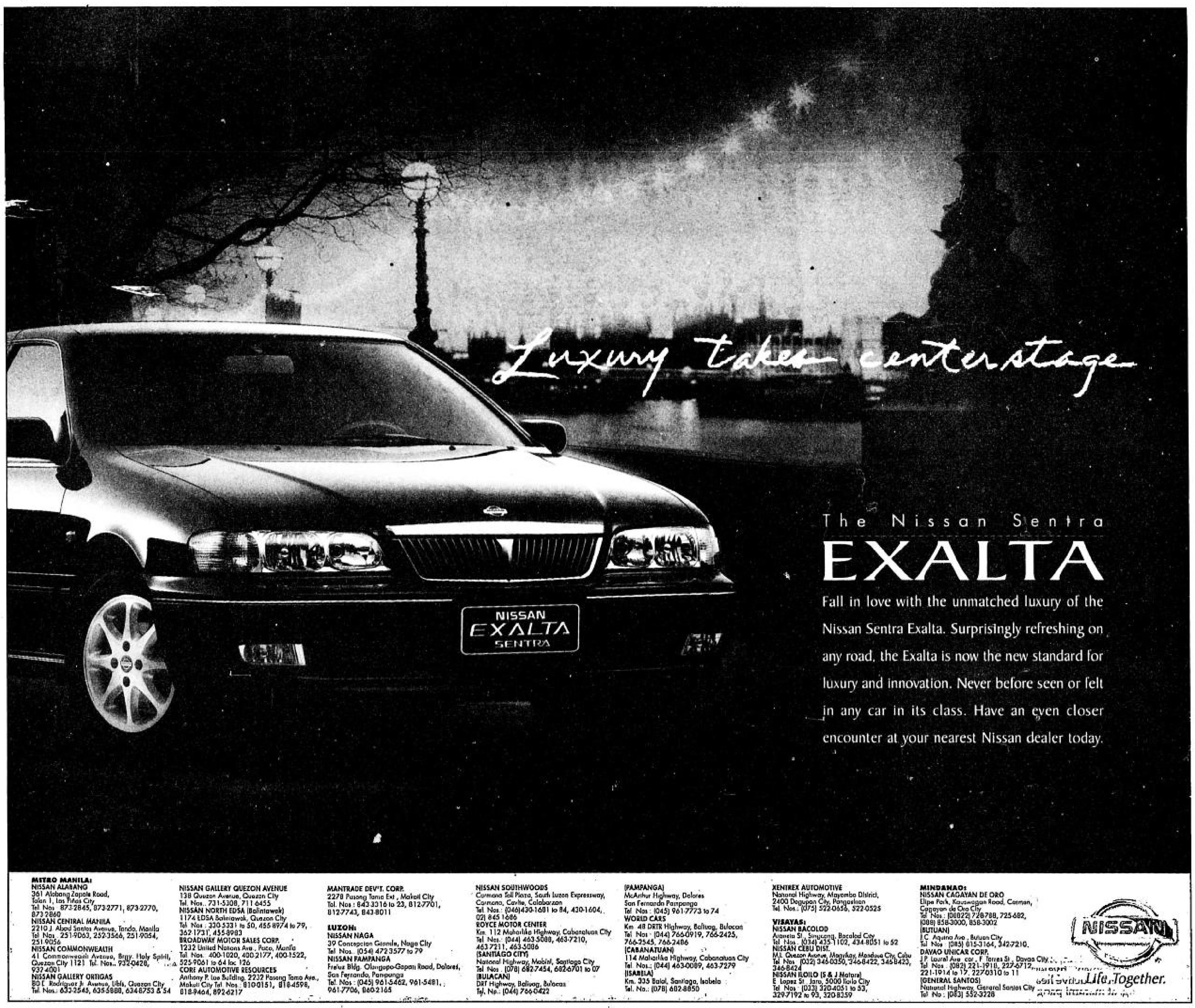

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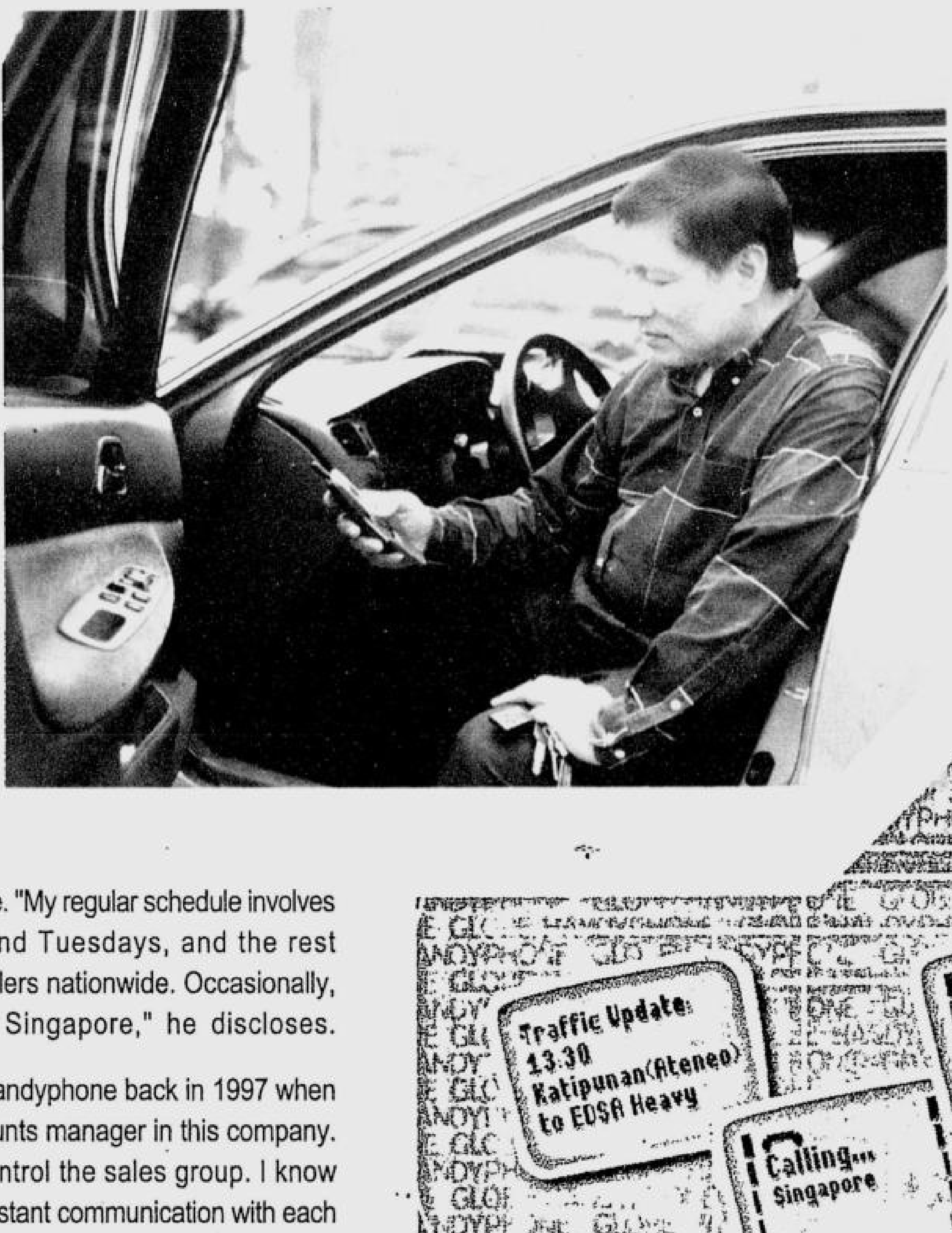
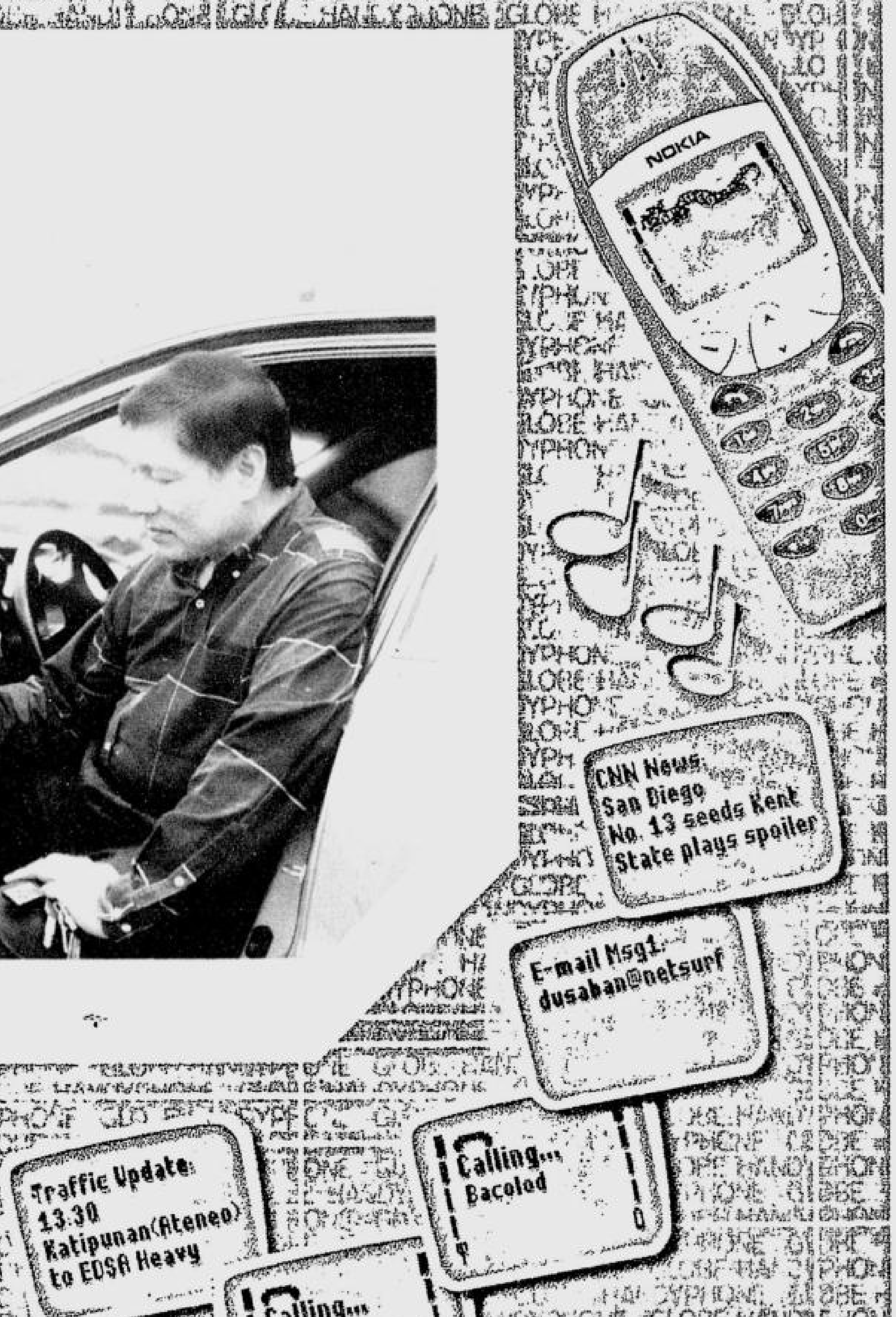


Gaine N. Dusaban, Jr.
Sales Director
Executive Plan Subscriber
NDD User and International Roamer
Wap User



Gaine Dusaban is perpetually on the move. "My regular schedule involves being in the office only on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the rest of the week on field to visit our key dealers nationwide. Occasionally, I also report to our main office in Singapore," he discloses.

Gaine started to depend on his Globe Handyphone back in 1997 when he was tapped as the national key accounts manager in this company. He shares, "My objective then is to control the sales group. I know that to achieve this, we have to be in constant communication with each other. After asking around, I found out Globe can help me achieve this goal since it offers good coverage and very reasonable rates—especially when calling Globe-to-Globe. I knew then we should stay with this one network!"

For a seemingly serious businessman, it is interesting to note that Gaine had personalized the Globe Handyphone clipped on to his belt with a funky dragon logo, "I was born in the year of the dragon. And my ringtone, the theme from *The Lion King*, is because I'm a Leo," he shares candidly.

"I'd sooner leave my driver's license than leave my house without my Globe. It helps me when I'm on the road as I access traffic reports and even CNN headlines. In fact, I'm going to start e-mailing my staff via my Globe as soon as I get my laptop readied. It's a beauty to be able to do my work wherever I am. Even when I'm abroad, I feel like I'm still here! And the best thing about it is, it makes me available to my boss anywhere—it can't happen that I can't be reached!" he adds.

Having established a career in sales, Gaine is very particular with customer service. "I admire the way Globe takes customers' problems seriously. If a member of the staff loses a phone or needs a new SIM, a replacement, a new one is delivered right away." He concludes, "*Ibang klase talaga ang* Globe!"

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Weddings & Engagements

TINNIE and Marco toast each other during the reception at the St. James the Great Basilica courtyard.

A match horribly ill-suited reaffirms magic of romance

He slipped a gorgeous diamond ring on her finger and proposed. He could barely understand if she said 'yes' or 'no' because she was bawling and wetting the front of his shirt with her tears

IT was a pleasantly cool early evening in Ayala Alabang when Khristina "Tinnie" Hidalgo fulfilled her altar date with Marco Javier. Statuesque in a low-back Edgar Allan gown of ecru satin, the bride confidently marched the long marble aisle of St. James the Great Basilica to meet her nervous groom at the altar.

Marco and Tinnie's love story took root in Citibank sometime in 1994, but fate would have brought them together even earlier. During his high school senior year at De La Salle Zobel, Marco used to visit the fairs and soirées of Tinnie's junior high school batch at St. Scholastica's College. Unfortunately, Tinnie's grandfather was strict about the whole dating scene, and so the opportunity for Marco and Tinnie to meet during those New Wave years did not come to pass.

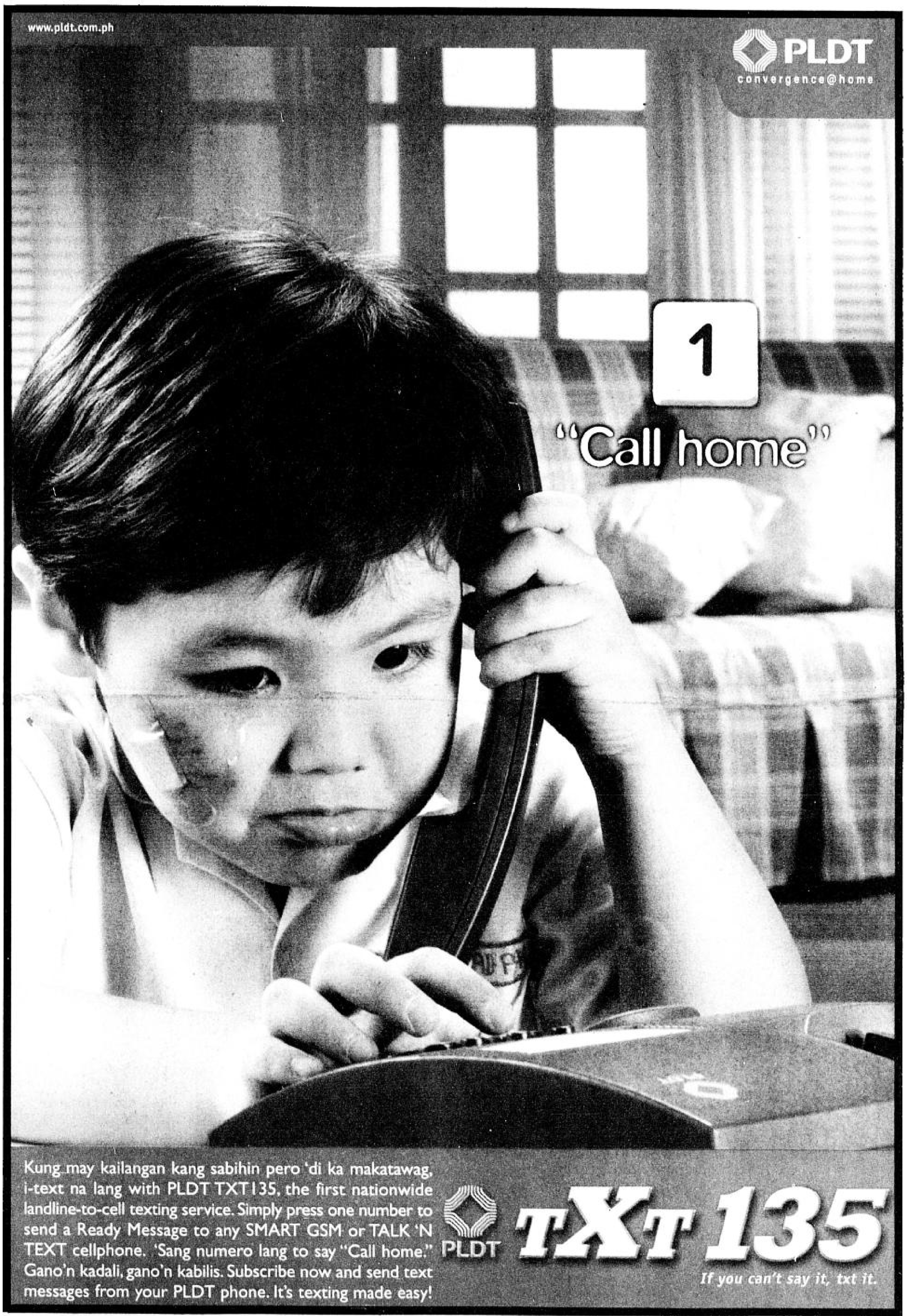
College came around and Tinnie's best friend, Tintin Costa-Yap, began trying to set Tinnie up with her cousin Paul's friends. Paul happened to be one of Marco's best friends. In the words of Tinnie, if she had gone out with Paul, Marco, out of typical Filipino *delicadeza*, wouldn't have even dared ask her out.

Strangely enough, they could have met after that, too. When Marco resigned from Far East Bank in 1993, one month later, Tinnie joined the company. Instead, they met later as co-employees at Citibank.

So it was in 1994 that fate finally brought them together. Marco's initial impressions regarding Tinnie included *maingay* and *maarte* (noisy and pretentious), while Tinnie found Marco to be *tahimik, tapos 'yun pala bastos* (quiet but it turns out he was oafish) and green-minded. Time, however, erased "*maingay* and *maarte, tahimik, tapos 'yun pala bastos*" and more truthful, likable observations took their place. Marco

A MATCH/ p.D2

THE BRIDE in a low-back strapless gown by Edgar Allan



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3. To select a Ready Message, press 2.
4. At the prompt, simply press the number of your selected message.
   - Press 1 for "Call home"
   - Press 2 for "Call me at the office"
   - Press 3 for "Have a good day"
   - Press 4 for "I love you"
   - Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
5. After selecting your ready message, the voice prompt will ask you to enter the sender's name or send the message right away.
6. After which, the voice prompt will confirm whether or not the message has been sent successfully.

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THE NEWLYWEDS with (from left to right) Camille Javier, groom's parents Elo and Cynthia Javier, Fr. Gerry Santos, Cybelle Javier, bride's parents Marilou and Richard Harrington

RENE Tiongco, Edgar Allan, Rosario and Tess Tiongco

A match horribly ill-suited . . .

(From page D1)

saw that Tinnie was very open to people, and that she enjoyed being with children. She was also very active in church groups. And during three-hour telephone conversations, Tinnie began to see the more serious, responsible side to Marco.

It was safe to say that love had come knocking at their door, and after five years of dating and enduring long trips up and down the South Superhighway (Marco came from Alabang, while Tinnie lived in Malate), Marco proposed to a tearful (almost bawling) Tinnie as he slipped a gorgeous diamond ring on her finger. According to Marco, he could barely understand if she said "yes" or "no" because she spent the next five minutes just wetting the front of his shirt with her tears.

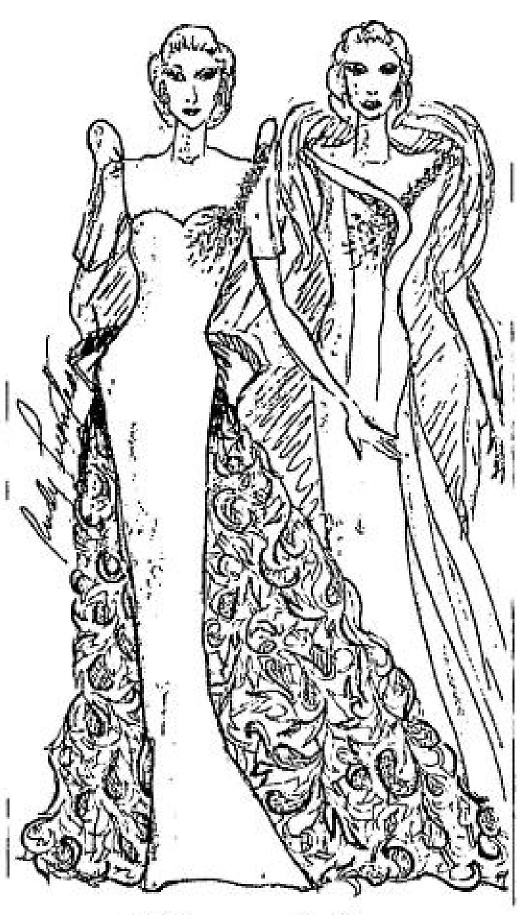
Tinnie, a self-confessed happy-go-lucky girl with a "*bahala na si* Batman" personality, has decided to spend the rest of her life with a man who is a stickler for punctuality, is responsible, organized and "two minutes ahead of schedule." Marco, who always told his family he would rather have puppies than children, is marrying a woman who goes gaga at the sight of cute, cuddly babies.

Others may find this match horribly ill-suited, but the couple believes that their differences complement one another. Tinnie describes Marco as her miracle. Since her high school days, she has prayed for a man who was responsible, caring and fun to be with—a man who knew how to ride buses and jeepneys, a man who enjoyed dancing. Tinnie found all these and more in a package less huge and straight-haired than she had hoped for, but in her heart she knew that what really mattered in her prayers had been thankfully answered.

And in Tinnie, Marco finds unfailing comfort and support during times of difficulty and conflict. According to Marco, you share your victories with your friends, but defeats are shared with a very few people, and in his case, Tinnie is one of those very few and very special people with whom he can wear a face of humility, an armor with several kinks.

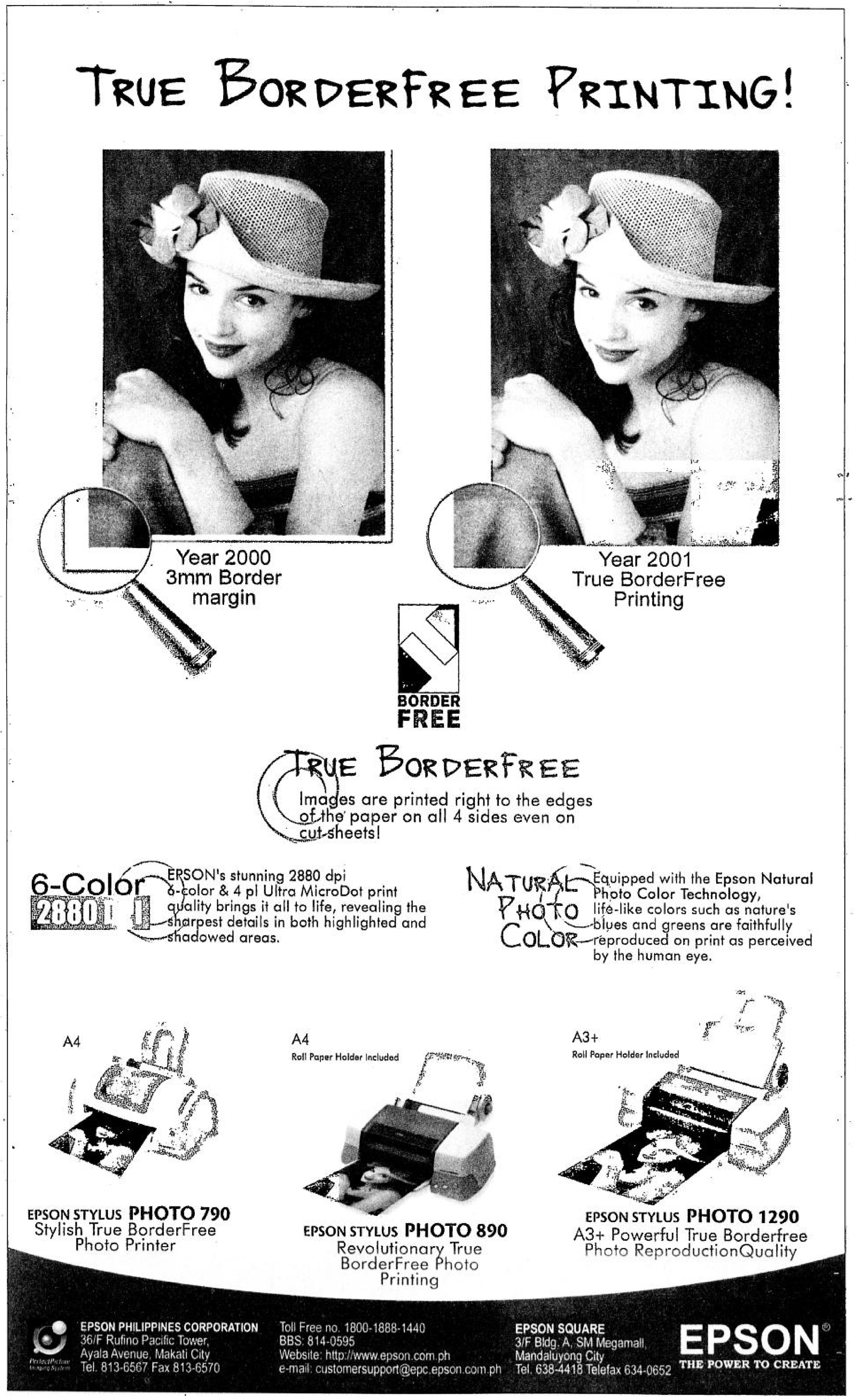
White rose petals were showered on the newly married couple by their friends as they left the vastness of the Basilica where they made their vows as man and wife. The very personal love story of Marco and Tinnie continues..

MATRONS of honor Tintin Costa-Yap and Beth Buhain-Legazpi flank the bride before the ceremony.



'Terno' for rigodon de honor

ZENEIDA Serrano Ting, the first lady president of Guiling-Guiling Club of Siniloan, Laguna, will wear this *terno* by Rudy Fuentes when she dances the *rigodon de honor* during the club's 50th anniversary on April 21 at the Siniloan Plaza. The *terno* is of pure silk alaskin in deep brown and gray, with a fully embroidered tail and a one-sided brooch-like beadwork covered by different shades of gold and silver Swarovski crystals. She will also wear a simple chartreuse evening gown with bias snake wrap inserted with Swarovski crystals.



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Dandruff, scalp-care, general hair matters. Let Kérastase help you with everything about these concerns. Here are some of the more interesting Q and A's that you need to know about dandruff:

Q: Dandruff is a problem, but what exactly is it? Is it a disease?

A: No it is not a disease, and it is not contagious, it is just a disorder of the scalp's natural cell replacement process and has two consequences, itching, prickling sensations and unsightly flakes on the hair and shoulders.

Q: By cell replacement, does this mean the scalp sheds?

A: Yes, the cells that make up your scalp renew themselves regularly, much like skin cells, but since they fall away one by one, the process is invisible.

Q: So where do the flakes come from? Why do some people have dandruff and the others don't?

A: The cells of the scalp, like our skin, form new cells. It takes between 30 and 45 days for the cells to be completely renewed. The old cells are shed daily in the form of a fine invisible dust.

In cases of dandruff, this shedding process takes place rapidly and becomes exaggerated to a notable extent: the cells of the epidermis are shed in clumps in the form of visible flakes.

This change in shedding process is caused by a change in quality and quantity of the population of microorganisms in the scalp called Malassezia Ovalis. This microorganism is normally present in the scalp but it sometimes proliferates in an exaggerated manner and causes inflammation of the scalp which causes acceleration of cell renewal and the shedding process resulting to the appearance of dandruff.

Q: So why does it proliferate? Is it a question of hygiene?

A: No, it is not a question of hygiene. It proliferates on the scalp because the scalp has an oily area and this yeast like organism needs a food source, in this case, it feeds on sebum which is produced on the scalp.

Q: Does washing our hair everyday get rid of dandruff?

A. It is only a partial solution because you have eliminated the sebum which is the breeding ground but you have not eliminated the cause. In reality, in the breeding ground, the source will remain and you still won't have treated your dandruff, you won't have eliminated it.

Q: So how can we get rid of dandruff?

A: What you need to do, is to deposit an anti-fungal agent on the scalp to attack this yeastlike microorganism and control its proliferation. A good agent is Piroctone Olamine because it is highly effective and it respects the skin's structural make-up more than any other agent.

Q: Is it the only agent available or are there others?

A. There are other active agents but Piroctone Olamine has the highest effectiveness and has ultra high tolerance.

Q: So where can we find Piroctone Olamine? What products contain this agent?

A: For most lasting effectiveness, Kerastase Paris combined Piroctone Olamine with two other agents: Salycylic Acid, which is obtained from a willow tree and which eliminates the massed cells from the surface of your scalp and AHA's which are found naturally in fruits and which slow the thickening of the outer layer of the skin. These three ingredients combine to form the Long Lasting Detox system found in the entire Kerastase Anti-Dandruff Line.

Q: Which products should we use?

A: There are three steps in the treatment of dandruff: The first step is to start with a product which is applied in the salon: the Gelee peeling treatment which offers immediate results. The second step is shampoo, which is practical because it combines the washing of the hair and the scalp with the treatment. The third step adds another action after shampooing: it is a lotion applied after washing. This is a very convenient product to use and you can apply it right after washing your hair. The lotion offers more concentrated action because the product is not rinsed off. All three products should be used in order to obtain the best results.

Q: Have you tested these methods? Do they work?

A: Yes it works. More impressive results are achieved when all three products are used together. The first thing to go is the tickling prickling sensation and then a few days later, the flakes will disappear.

Q: Are these products safe?

A: The very foundation of Kerastase product performance stems from the work of over 3,000 researchers from L'Oreal's Advanced Research Laboratories. It offers the world's latest scientific breakthroughs and technological innovations.

So visit your Kérastase Salon today and get that scalp irritant out of the way.

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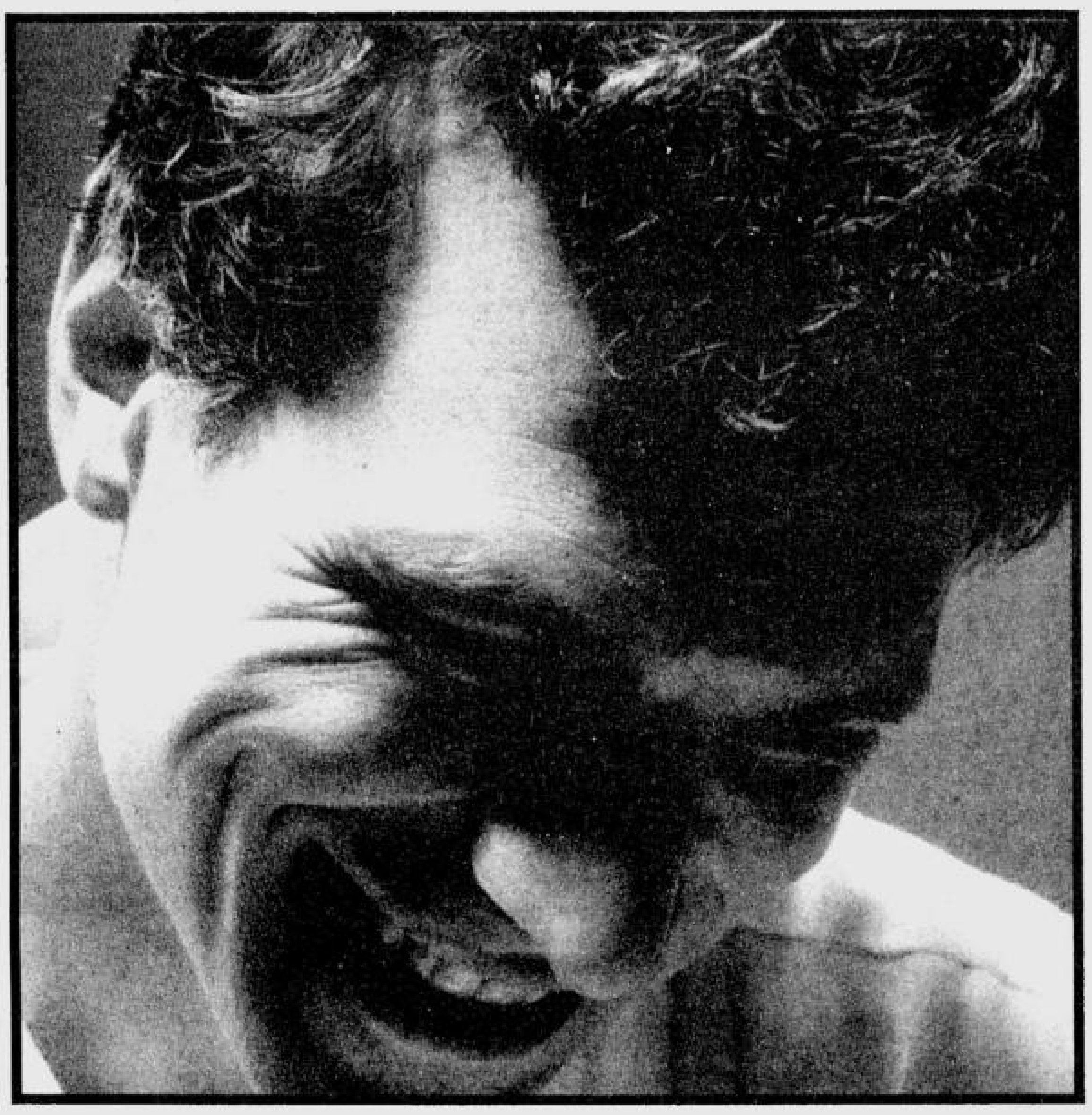

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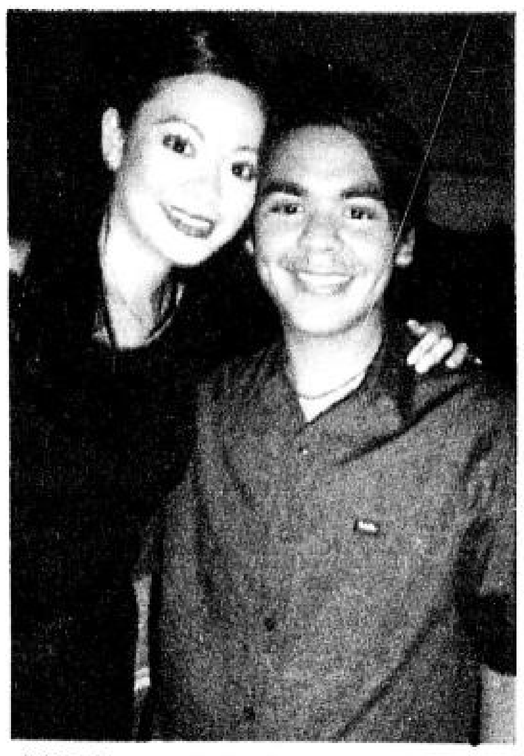
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Raul Teehankee

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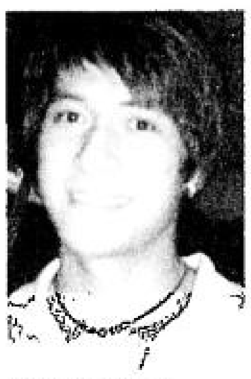
JAY Roa Yu of Wiseguys

TROY Montero

MARY Joy de Leon

VIETNAMESE lawyer Hoi Trinh

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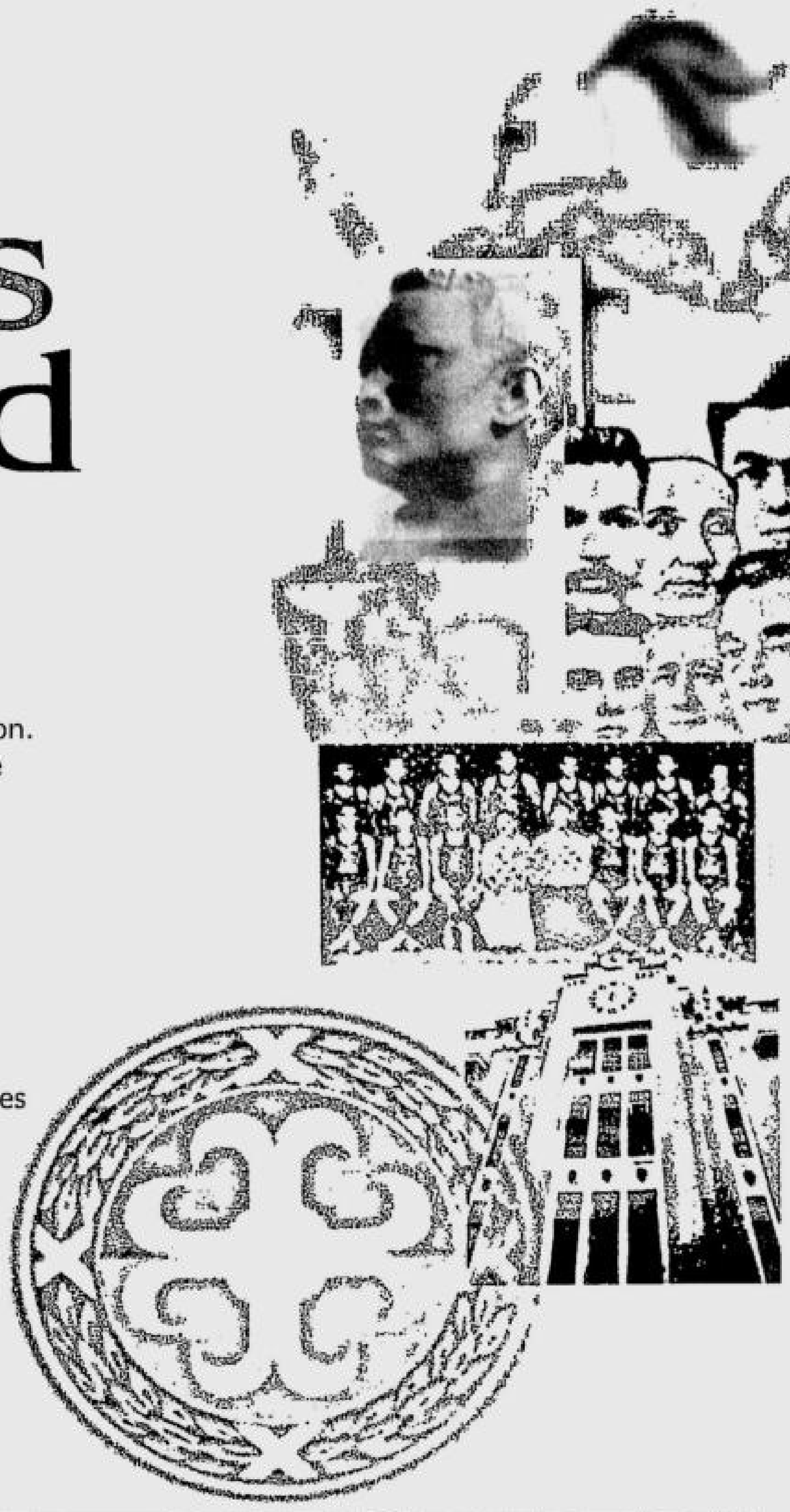

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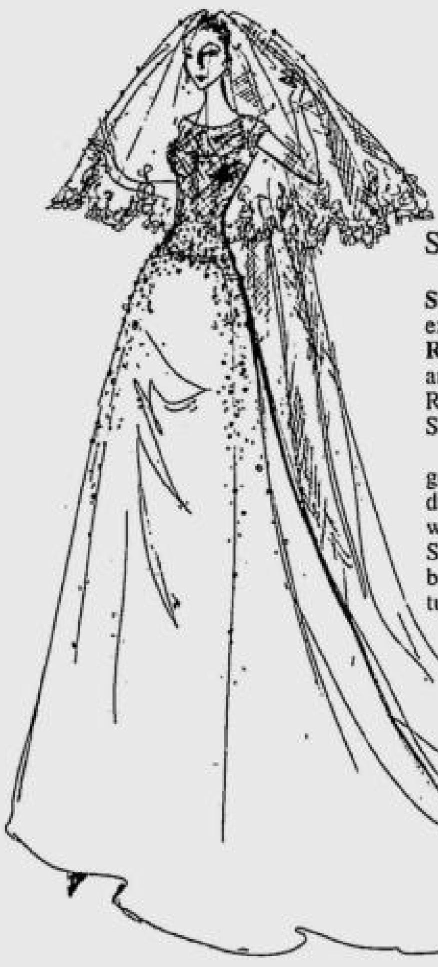
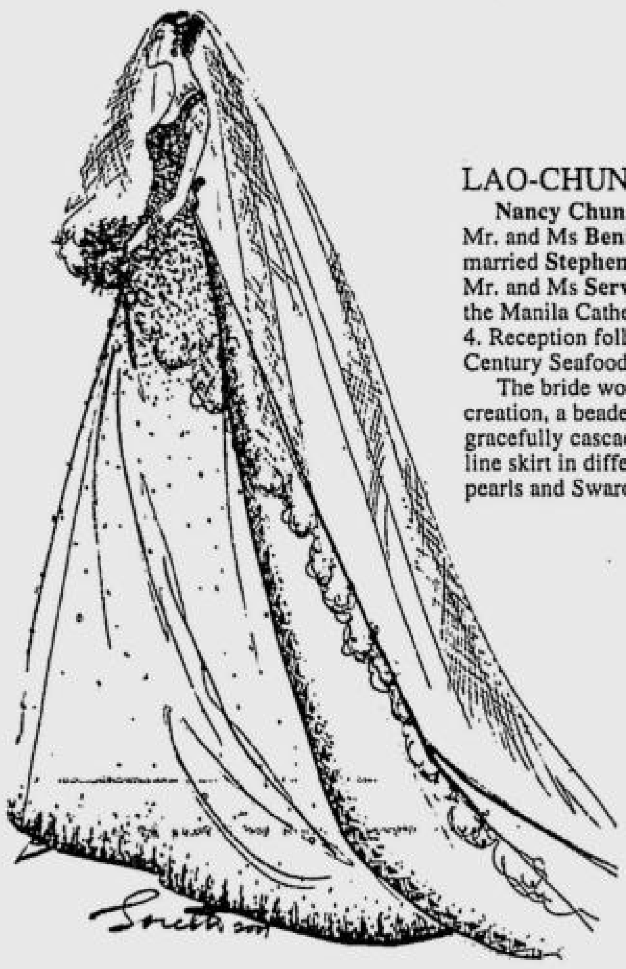
Milestones



SY-DY

Elinore Dy, daughter of **Dy Sing** and **Victoria Dy**, will exchange marriage vows with **Ricky Sy**, son of **Sy Ka Kieng** and **Rosa Sy**, on March 25. Reception follows at the Makati Shangri-La Ballroom.

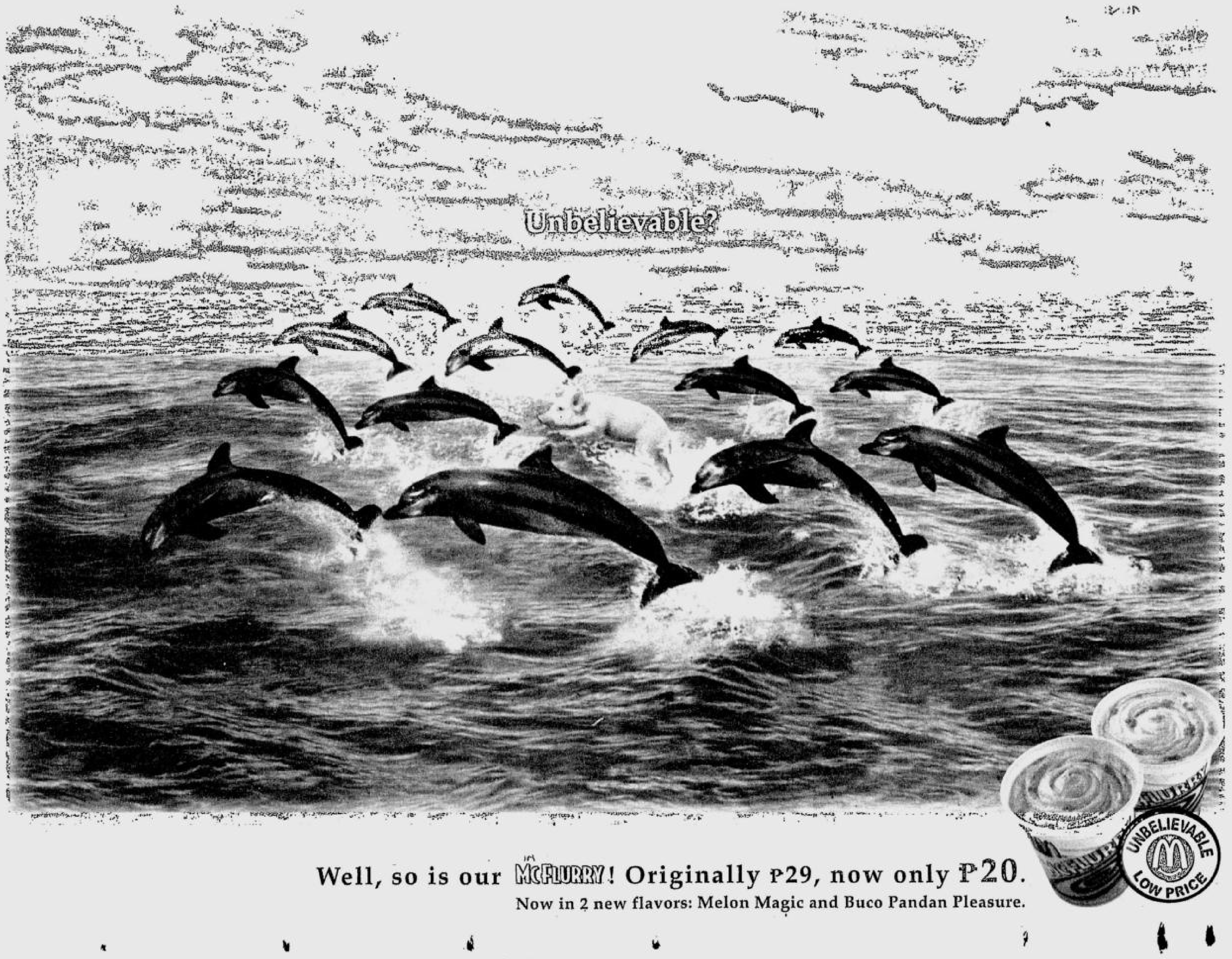
Auggie Cordero created a gown made of silk tulle top with duchesse satin skirt, embellished with crystals, caviar sequins, Swarovski crystals, rhinestones beads and French paillettes on tulle in ivory.



LAO-CHUNG

Nancy Chung, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Benito Chung**, married **Stephen Lao**, son of Mr. and Ms **Servillano Lao** at the Manila Cathedral on March 4. Reception followed at Century Seafoods Restaurant.

The bride wore a Loretto creation, a beaded top that gracefully cascades to the A-line skirt in different sizes of pearls and Swarovski crystals.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings Engagements

A tale of friendship and love

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

BRAND-NEW couple JV Borromeo and Marivic Ortigas-Borromeo

FRIENDS for 14 years and sweethearts for almost a decade, Jose Vito "JV" Borromeo and Marivic Ortigas tied the knot at a dream wedding held at Sonrisa, the Ortigases' summer place in rustic Calatagan, Batangas. The groom is the son of GNC-Phils. owners Pocholo and Mary Anne (nee Luis) Borromeo, while the bride is the daughter of Francisco "Pacqui" Ortigas III and the former Susie Madrigal Bayot.

JV earned his business degree at La Salle's College of St. Benilde. Marivic finished law with honors at the Ateneo and then took up culinary studies in Madrid and Florence.

Sonrisa, which is Spanish for "smile," is the scene of many happy memories for the new couple. Since they started going out together, they have frequented the place to swim and jet-ski with their young friends.

Both are expert skiers having competed and won in many jet ski tournaments. In fact, JV was the former president of the Jet Ski Association of the Phils.

The concelebrated Mass was solemnized at the old church of Santo Domingo de Silos in the town proper of Calatagan. Marivic was a lovely vision in a white bustier satin gown with a corded diamond pattern ballroom skirt by Vera Wang. As she made the slow march to the altar in the arms of her father, Bernie Pasamba's String Ensemble played classic pieces, including Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion's duet of "My Prayer."

The principal sponsors were Susie's aunt, Ising Madrigal-Vazquez; uncles Jun and Butch Bayot; the Borromeo family's cardiologist, Dr. Helen Marcoianopolous-Fojas, who jetted in from Greece; Lisa Tinio Bayot; the bride's grandmother, Doña Nenita Ortigas (proxied by her San Francisco-based daughter Nenuca); the groom's granduncle, Fred Borromeo and California businessman Bill Fries.

The best man was JV's bosom pal Mark Lopez and matron of honor was the bride's elder sister Tabbie Ortigas-Duarte. The secondary sponsors were Renee Tuason, Rosa Corrales, Alix Bayot, Paolo Araneta, Michael Luis and Paco Ortigas.

Reception followed at the Ortigases' newly constructed Mediterranean-style country villa in Sonrisa which is built on top of a hill in the 20-ha estate. Antonio Garcia of Mabolo Florists set up the lovely al fresco décor, using hundreds of exotic flowers flown in from Europe. Surrounded by a breath-taking 180° view of the beach below, the guests dined on Gaita Fores' heralded "couture pastas" and Via Mare's fabled cuisine while listening to the music of Moroccan singer Moise. As the guests raised their champagne glasses for the traditional

A TALE/ p.E2

THE BRIDE with her parents Pacqui and Susie Ortigas and brother Paquito

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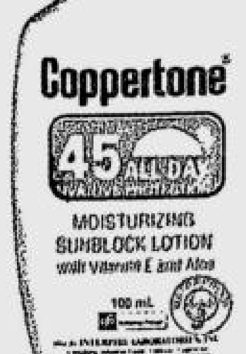

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WITH YOUNG friends Dindo and Angela Mejia (from left), Krissy Besa, Mari Koh, Pinky Yap, Aileen Anastacio, Paolo Lopez, the newlyweds, BJ Afable, Mark Lopez, Eric Martel, Enrique Soler, Oliver Malong, Carlo Lopez, Pay Rufino, Mike Lopez and Paolo Lagdameo. Sitting on foreground are Joanne Dy, Rosa Corrales and Valerie Lopez

A tale of friendship and love

JV and Marivic with principal sponsors Dr. Helen Fojas, Nenuca Ortigas, Lisa Bayot, Ising Vasquez, Bill Fries, Francisco Bayot, Fred Borromeo and Butch Bayot

(From page E1)

toast, spectacular fireworks lit up the sky. The happy couple, their eyes sparkling with love, smiled and embraced each other under a shower of exploding colors.

The party continued till nearly daybreak. And ever the thoughtful hosts, the newlyweds' parents prepared a midnight buffet of *lugao, bibingka, puto bumbong* and *ensaimada* for guests who stayed on to dance the night away.

After honeymooning in the United States, JV is back at work as chief operating officer of GNC-Phils. and boss of his own water sports business. Meanwhile, Marivic will be attending to her coffee shop in Greenhills called Goodies and Sweets, but will be devoting most of her time playing wife to JV and setting up their new home as man and wife. Cheers!

NEWLYWEDS JV and Marivic Borromeo hold hands under a shower of exploding colors

THE HAPPY bride dances with dad Pacqui Ortigas.

THE NEWLYWEDS with their secondary sponsors and little attendants

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THE NEWLYWEDS with the groom's brother Aly, grandma Niobe Luis, parents Mary Anne and Pocholo Borromeo, brother Ricky and little sister Annie (foreground)

MARICRIS Zobel and Angela Padilla

THERESE Coronel-Santos (clockwise from top left), Munte del Rosario, Boots Rufino and Guilly Rufino

(SEATED) Tony Marco, Josie Gonzalez, Gilda Salonga and (standing) Inos Eugenio, Tony Portillo, Ruby Benitez, Nini Mitchell and Maw Anne Borromeo

DANCING ladies Brenda Heffron, Loryvi Valdes, Baby Girl Fricke, Mila Brandner, Racky Garcia, Tes Altua, Kristine Cerqueda and Carla Andaya

THE BREATHTAKING Sonrisa country estate in Calatagan

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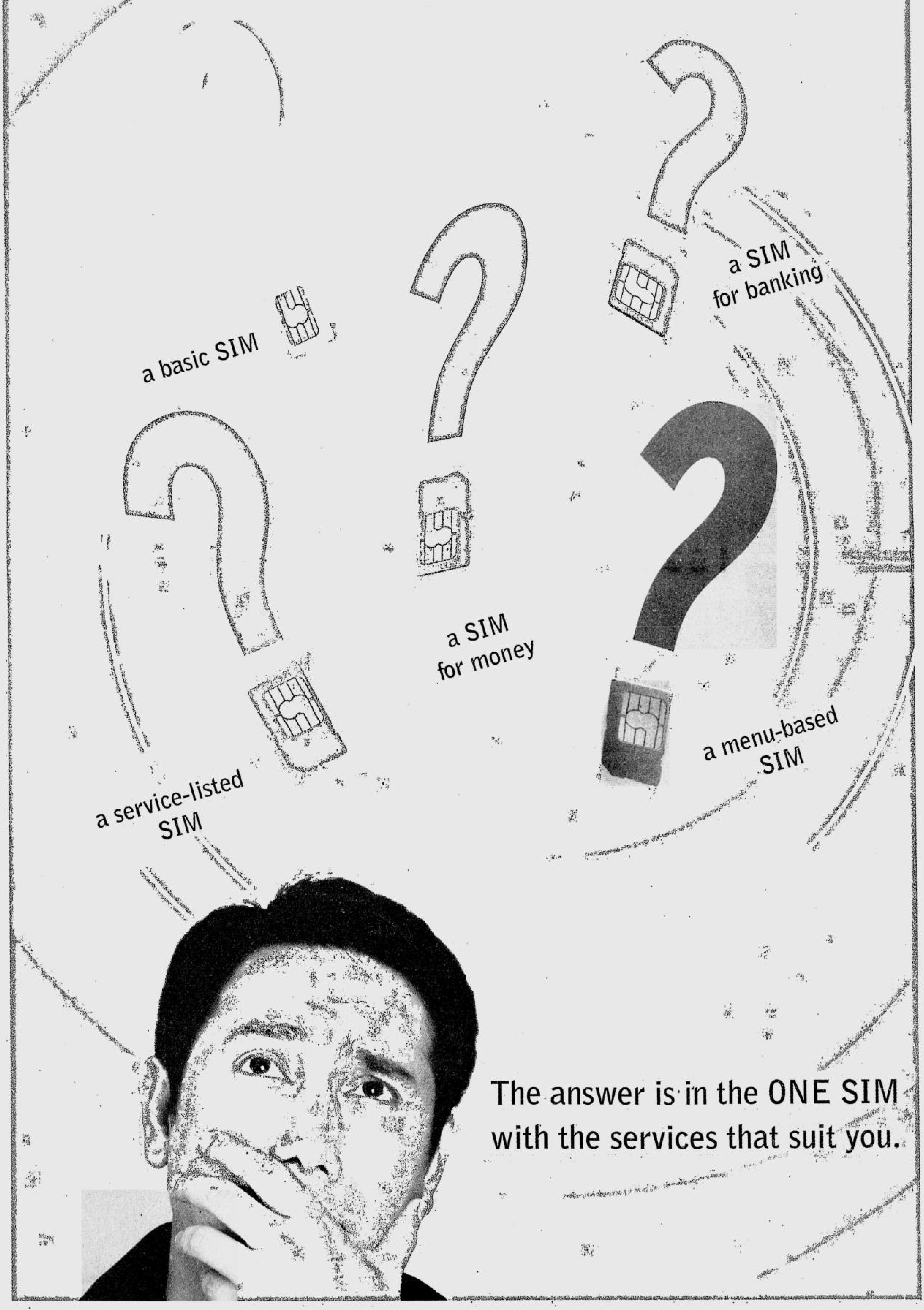
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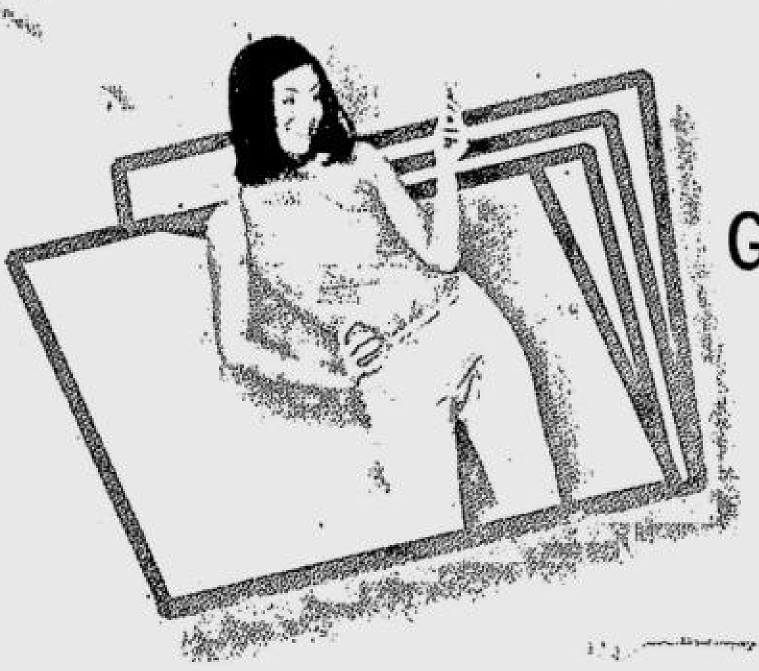

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Despite the pain he caused her, she still hopes to win him back

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I've been through a lot of broken relationships, broken promises and a lot of pain, too. One relationship in particular was when I had a boyfriend who's married with two kids. It was not easy. I soon realized that we were just infatuated with each other, driven by lust and passion.

Marc came along when I was grieving over my past relationship. We met when I was in Puerto Galera with my sister. He was her boss. We became instant friends and I told him everything about me, including my secret "affair" with a married man. He could see right through me. I trusted him so much that I became blind, not seeing who he really was. I became deaf, not hearing what everyone else was saying about him.

We started going out without my sister's knowledge. I fell in love so hard and expected things would turn out well. After a month, we had sex. Two days later, he texted me saying he was bothered and confused.

I assured him I wasn't pregnant. I was hoping for a commitment he couldn't give because he's still waiting for Pam, his ex-girlfriend. He said it would be unfair if he could not love me in return. I was really hurt and accused him of just using me. He said that he had no intention of taking advantage of me. He wanted us to act as if nothing happened but I couldn't. I didn't want him to think that I was pressuring him to do something he didn't want to do so I just stopped.

I thought I would be able to move on and forget this whole damn thing. But I was wrong. He was everything to me but he had hurt me so much that I've become a man-hater. I suddenly realized that all men are just the same.

He was the third man in my life who, after getting what he wanted, abandoned me. Was it my fault that I trusted so much and gave everything to make my man happy? I know that there's nothing wrong with me, physically and emotionally. But why do these men seek nothing but pleasure from me? I'm just so tired of falling in and out of love. I still want Marc. But what am I going to do? Please help me win him back. I love him so much and it hurts because I still couldn't let go. I don't want to be a man-hater all my life.

Thank you so much and may God bless you, your show and your new radio station.

APRIL

There is a big difference between loving someone and wanting someone. You still want Marc but I don't think that desire is driven by genuine love. Marc, just like the other two men in your life just wanted to get a piece of the action. They would never even come close to committing themselves to any form of relationship with you. Not that you are unworthy but it was clear that they were just after the physical satisfaction that they could get from you. They must have really wanted you but then again, that desire cannot be used to define the true meaning of love.

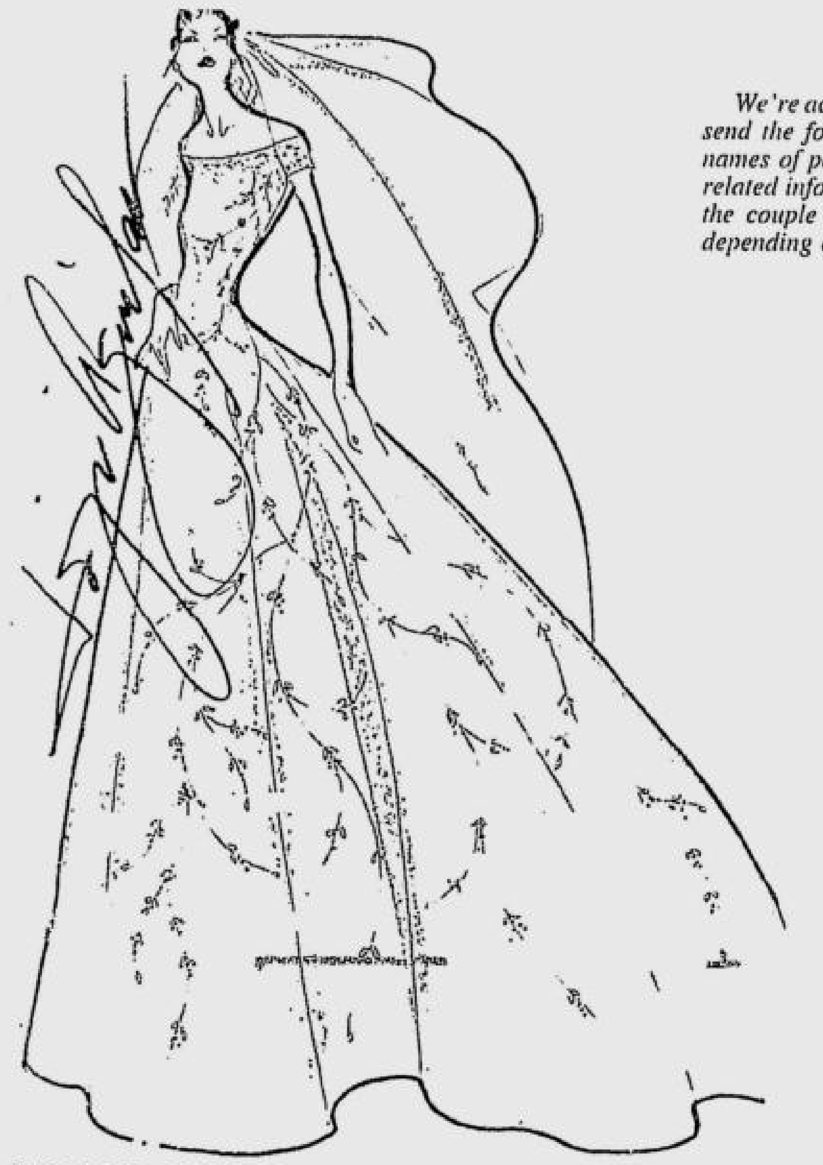
April, we all know how some men can cunningly deceive women into giving what they want and then excuse themselves from any responsibility afterward. Stumbling on the same stone three times, however, should not be enough reason for you to hate them in general. Not all men are like Marc. There are still many who are brave enough to face the consequences of their actions. Men with respect. Men who can love without price.

April, in true relationships, commitment comes before physical intimacy. Men who just want to have sex and refuse responsibility are just self-centered individuals who think only of their own satisfaction. These people will never have any place in lasting relationships where the real foundation of love is built on unselfish commitment, trust and respect.

E-mail the author at olan<joe-@ailink.net>. Love Notes is now aired over Wave 89.1, the newest FM radio station in Metro Manila.

Milestones

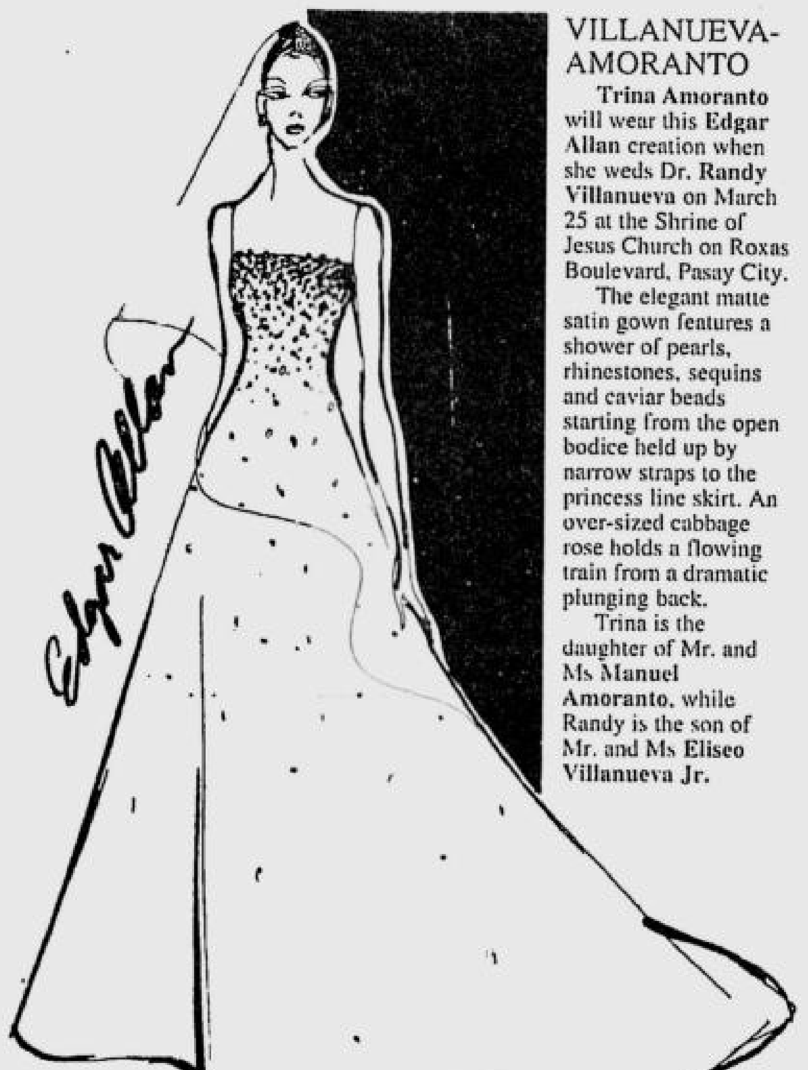
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least a month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



SAN LUIS-CANLAS

Patrick San Luis, son of **Raul** and **Celia San Luis**, will exchange marriage vows with **Les Canlas**, daughter of **Ben** and **Aurora Canlas**, on March 24 at the Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Brixton Hills, Araneta Avenue, QC.

The bride will wear an all-white princess-cut gown with a cathedral train of satin with pines made of crystal beads and chiffon petals designed by **Joji Aguilar**.



VILLANUEVA-AMORANTO

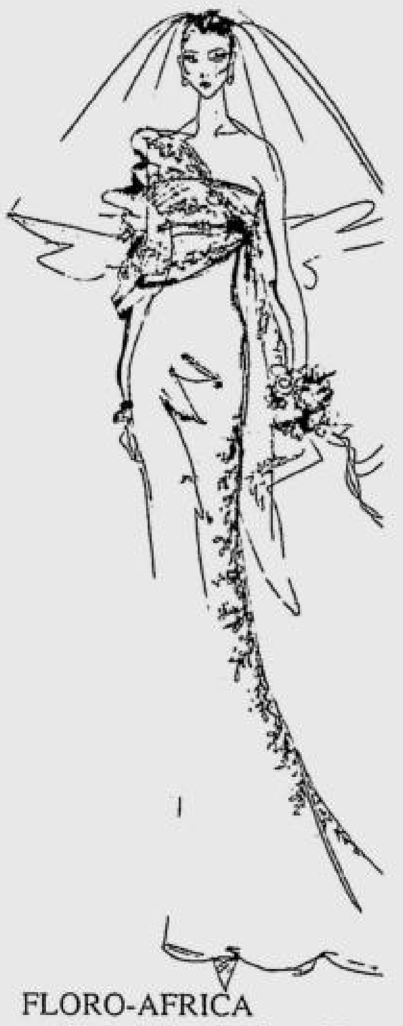
Trina Amoranto will wear this **Edgar Allan** creation when she weds Dr. **Randy Villanueva** on March 25 at the Shrine of Jesus Church on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The elegant matte satin gown features a shower of pearls, rhinestones, sequins and caviar beads starting from the open bodice held up by narrow straps to the princess line skirt. An over-sized cabbage rose holds a flowing train from a dramatic plunging back.

Trina is the daughter of Mr. and Ms **Manuel Amoranto**, while Randy is the son of Mr. and Ms **Eliseo Villanueva Jr.**

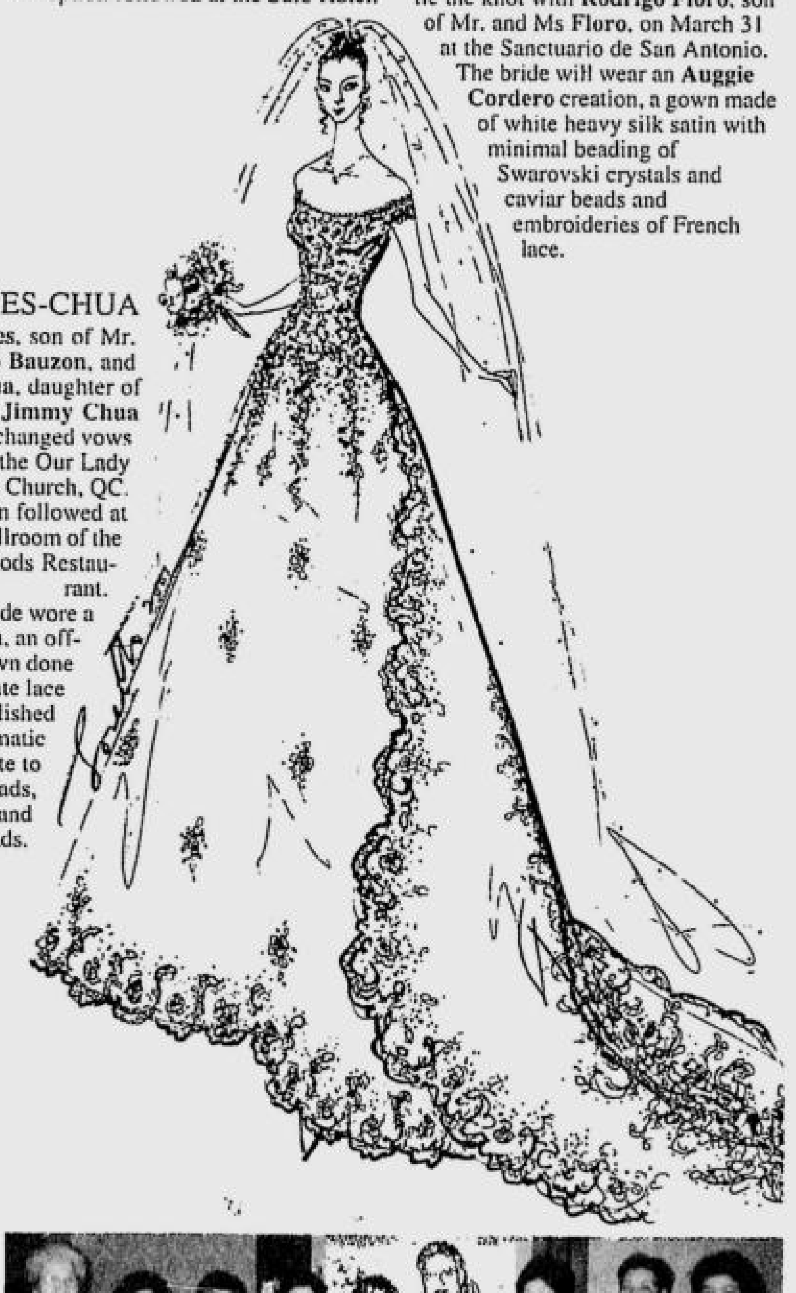
SANCHEZ-SAN PEDRO

Johann Averylle M. Sanchez, eldest son of **Manuel Luis S. Sanchez** and **Emilia M. Sanchez**, and **Cheryl K. San Pedro**, eldest daughter of **Antonio S. San Pedro** and **Narcisa K. San Pedro**, sealed their union recently in a ceremony at the UP Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, Diliman, QC. Reception followed at the Sulo Hotel.



FLORO-AFRICA

Celeste Africa, daughter of Dr. **Demetriou** and **Loreta Africa**, will tie the knot with **Rodrigo Floro**, son of Mr. and Ms **Floro**, on March 31 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio. The bride will wear an **Auggie Cordero** creation, a gown made of white heavy silk satin with minimal beading of Swarovski crystals and caviar beads and embroideries of French lace.



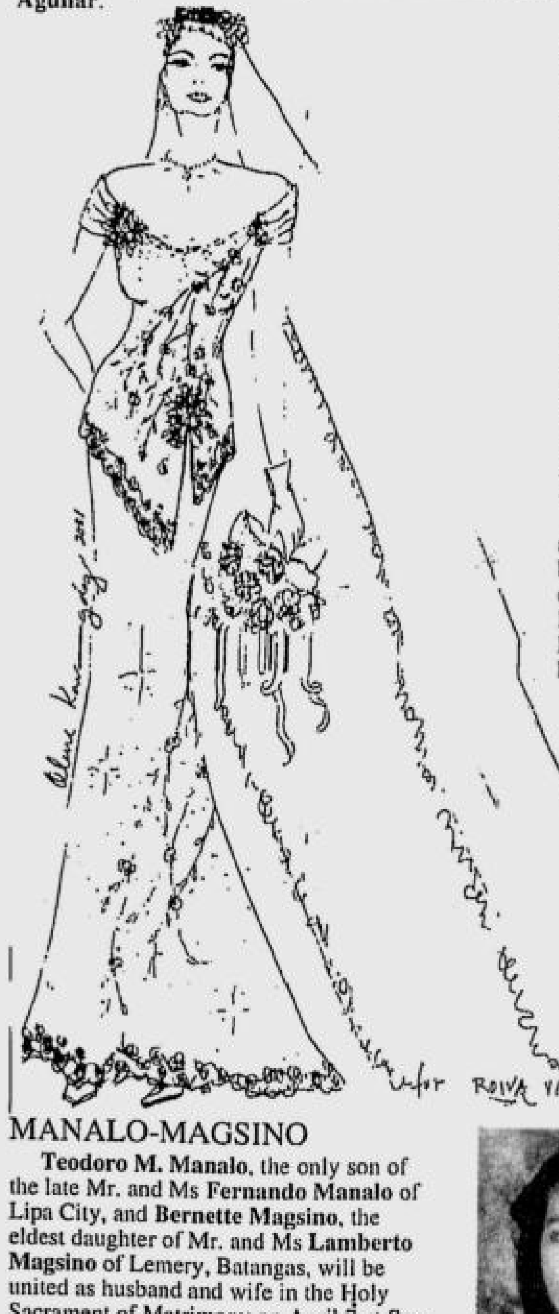
REYES-CHUA

Jose Reyes, son of Mr. and Ms **Romeo Bauzon**, and **Sheryl Uy Chua**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Jimmy Chua Chi Leong**, exchanged vows on Feb. 24 at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church, QC. Reception followed at Cachina Ballroom of the Century Seafoods Restaurant.

The bride wore a Loretto creation, an off-shoulder gown done with intricate lace pattern, embellished with monochromatic shades of white to ivory in cut beads, crystals, caviar and jet beads.

ROBLES DEBUT

Pearl Robles, daughter of **Gideon** and **Pet Robles**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 24 with a dinner-dance party to be held at the Grand Ballroom of 318 Gallery, Las Piñas City. Her birthday celebration coincides with her father's birthday.

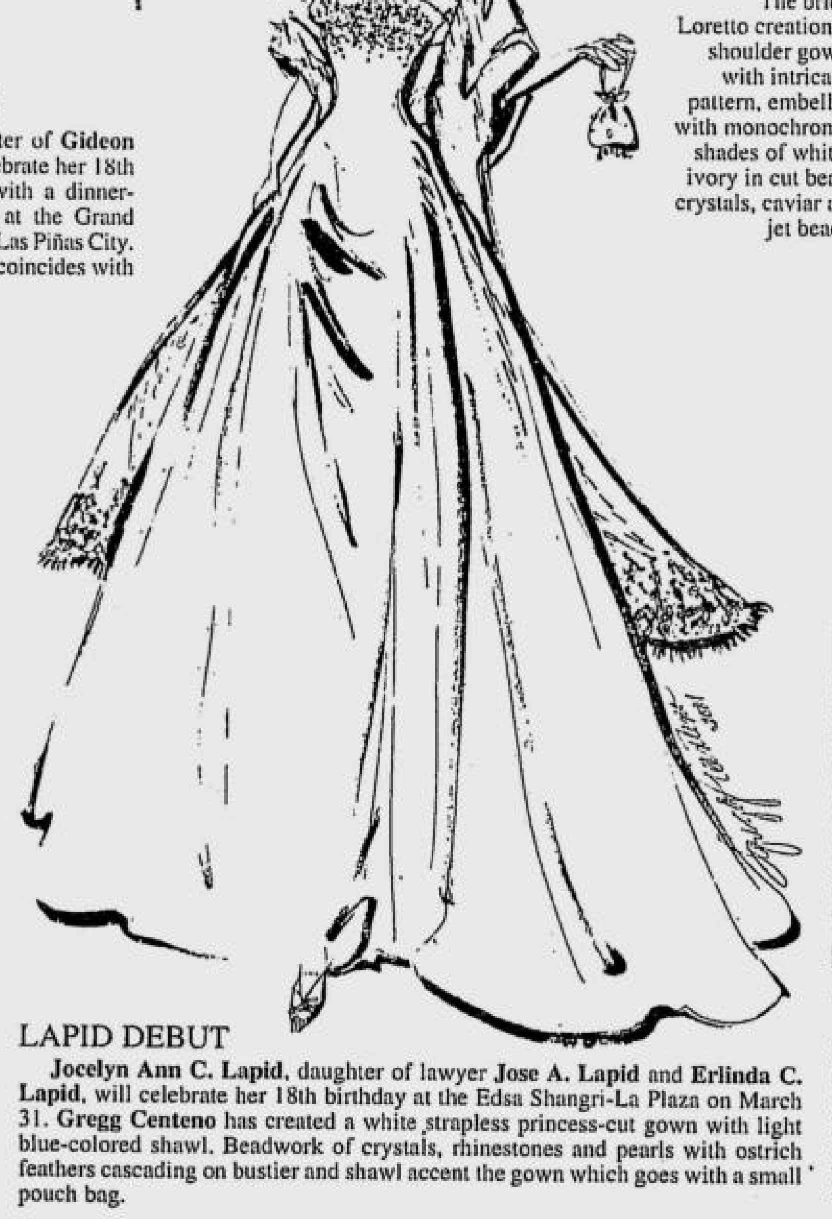


MANALO-MAGSINO

Teodoro M. Manalo, the only son of the late Mr. and Ms **Fernando Manalo** of Lipa City, and **Bernette Magsino**, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Ms **Lamberto Magsino** of Lemery, Batangas, will be united as husband and wife in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony on April 7 at San Roque Parish Church, Lemery. **Olive Karagdag** of Roiva Vinca Boutique at Paco, Manila designed the bride's gown as well as the flower arrangements. The silver-white gown is made of stardust satin accentuated with satin flowers and Swarovski crystals. Tulle lace as veil is extended to a 3-meter cathedral train. Pillbox cap as headdress with fresh flowers and crystals complete the ensemble.

CORPUZ DEBUT

Tricialyn R. Corpuz of Kalipayan Homes, Naic Cavite, celebrated her 18th birthday on Feb. 19.



LAPID DEBUT

Jocelyn Ann C. Lapid, daughter of lawyer **Jose A. Lapid** and **Erlinda C. Lapid**, will celebrate her 18th birthday at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza on March 31. **Gregg Centeno** has created a white strapless princess-cut gown with light blue-colored shawl. Beadwork of crystals, rhinestones and pearls with ostrich feathers cascading on bustier and shawl accent the gown which goes with a small pouch bag.

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Lawyer **Rafael Avelino Morales** and Dr. **Natalia Ma. Lourdes Mineque-Morales** recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows at the San Miguel Pro-Cathedral, Manila, followed by a dinner reception at the Manila Hotel. They have four children, namely **Novette Regina**, **Raymond Noel**, **Nadine Rosario** and **Rafael Norman**. The couple is shown here with their guests **Myrna T. Santos**, Prof. **Ligaya Rubin**, Dr. **Carmita Recto**, **Rosalina dela Paz-Magat**, Dr. **Bella M. Villanueva**, lawyers **Josefina de Vera-Saliva** and **Vernette Umali-Paco**.

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ST. SCHOLASTICA'S School of Music offers the following summer programs:

Piano summer program: piano lessons (one hour, once a week); music theory and piano ensemble class (two hours, once a week, minimum of five students). Schedule: April 2 to May 12 (six weeks).

String summer program: string lessons—violin/viola/cello (one hour once a week); theory class (one hour, once a week); orchestra (three hours, twice a week). Schedule: April 16 to May 26.

Computer music modules: midi sequencing, music notation (three weeks, nine hours/module, 1½ hour/session twice a week).

Lessons in any of the following instruments: voice, guitar, clarinet, recorder, pipe organ. For schedule/fees, call/visit the Music Department at 524-7686 to 89.

Teacher-in-service program (teaching music from Grades 1-6), which is open to both veteran and novice teachers. Participants need not be trained musicians, but a working knowledge of music is helpful. Course offerings: methods, materials and strategies for classroom music; functional keyboard; vocal techniques; basic choral conducting; theory of music; recorder class.

The fine arts department also offers a creative workshop in ceramics, which will be handled by Noell Farol. It will be held from 9 a.m.-12 nn.

Call the Music Department at 524-7686 to 89 or Mae de Vera at 324-9701.

Cellular phones as a news medium

THE WIRELESS phone is fast becoming a popular new medium for news and information.

Case in point: Cellular leader Smart Communications recently tied up with INQ7, the website joint venture of the INQUIRER and GMA Network Inc., in order to provide its subscribers access, via text messaging, to the latest news from the most widely visited website in the country.

Smart had also made similar deals with leading Metro Manila-based newpapers and TV network ABS-CBN.

As a result, Smart cell phone users can access the news and information services of the Philippines' three biggest dailies, its two leading television networks, the largest chain of regional newspapers and the most visited news website in the country today.

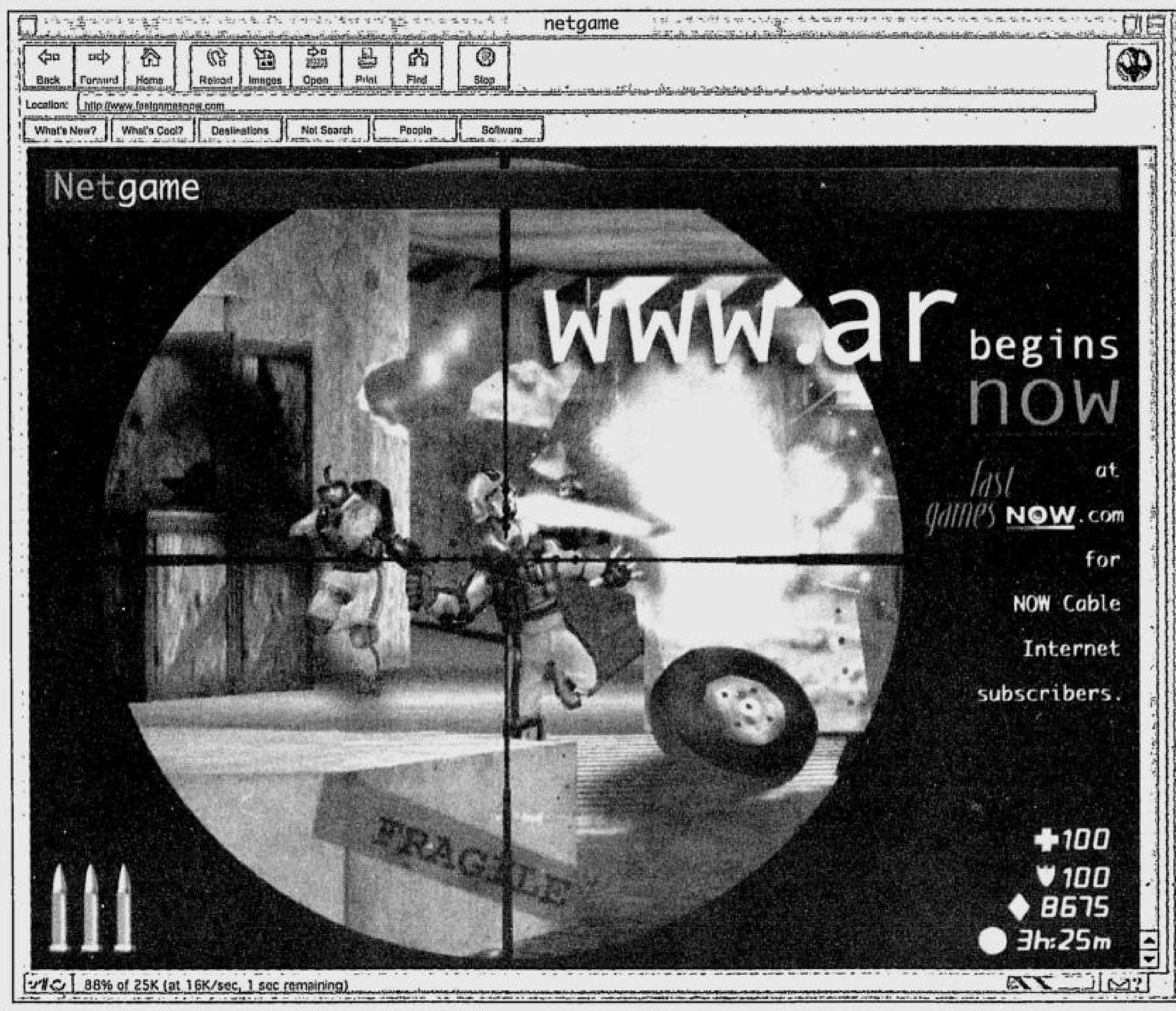
The rise of mobile phones as an alternative news medium is being welcomed by observers of the news landscape.

"Any technology that disseminate information should be welcomed because we, as a people, are information-hungry. News in cell phones provide a more convenient way of getting a quick summary of what's going on," says Luis Teodoro, a former dean of the UP College of Mass Communication.

Teodoro says cellular phones provide a service. "I think it is effective because getting some information is better than having no information at all," he says.

In fact, cellular phones have become a rich source of general information as well.

For all its various news and data services, however, the cell phone cannot replace traditional media. For one, traditional media forms still provide more detailed information.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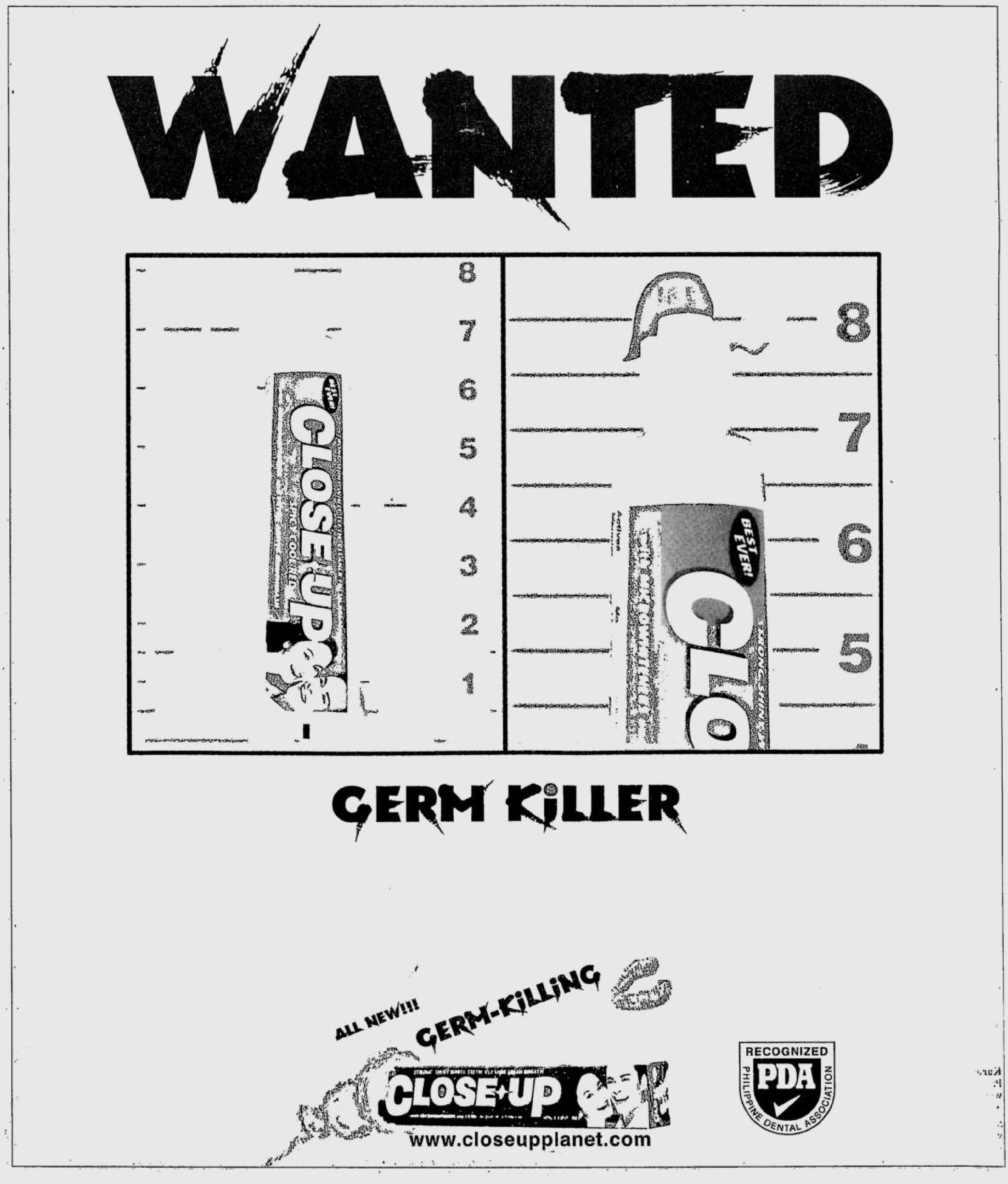
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Lolita C. Ramos
VP-CIO, Information Technology
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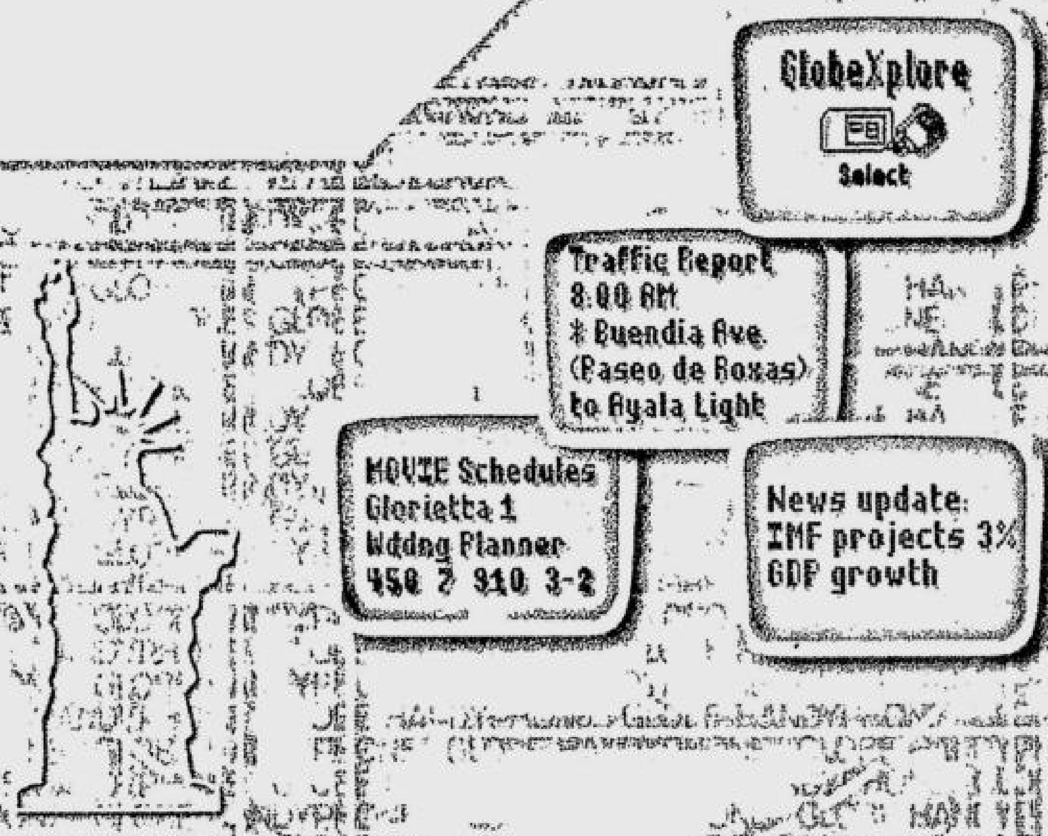
Lolit Ramos is the epitome of the modern woman. "I do a balancing act of running a home, with a husband and five kids, and managing a very dynamic information technology department of a big corporation. This I can sustain through constant communication," she attests.

Since she spends an hour and a half each day driving between home and office—which includes dropping off two of her kids to school in the mornings—she manages both worlds remotely via her Globe Handyphone, equipped with her new GlobeXplore SIM card. "I try to be productive during the drive, like calling my secretary to get the day's appointments or discuss urgent issues with my staff. Since I barely have time to read the papers, I also access top stories and traffic reports. I get these all in a click," she recounts. "Coming home from work, I try to unwind and check for any interesting movies and their schedules from my GlobeXplore. Once, I remember my son and I were stuck in traffic and I watched him play X-men through his own Globe," she adds.

Even when abroad for seminars and conferences, Lolit is kept informed. "It makes me confident that I am still on top of everything while away. Before, when I leave for abroad, my attempts to call my family and my staff were limited since it's so costly to use the landline service of the hotel. On the other hand, it's so embarrassing to borrow someone else's phone," she admits.

"One feature that I really love and appreciate is the $0.40 a minute IDD call. As they say, it's anytime, to anywhere! Recently, I had to call my sister in the US through my Globe to follow up an item I had ordered through amazon.com. I had requested for the item to be delivered to her so she can forward it to me. Not only did I save on the item itself, but on my overseas call as well," she shares.

"While Globe is very innovative in the use of technology to come up with exciting services, I continue figuring out how to maximize that technology. With Globe, it's always a win-win situation," Lolit smiles.



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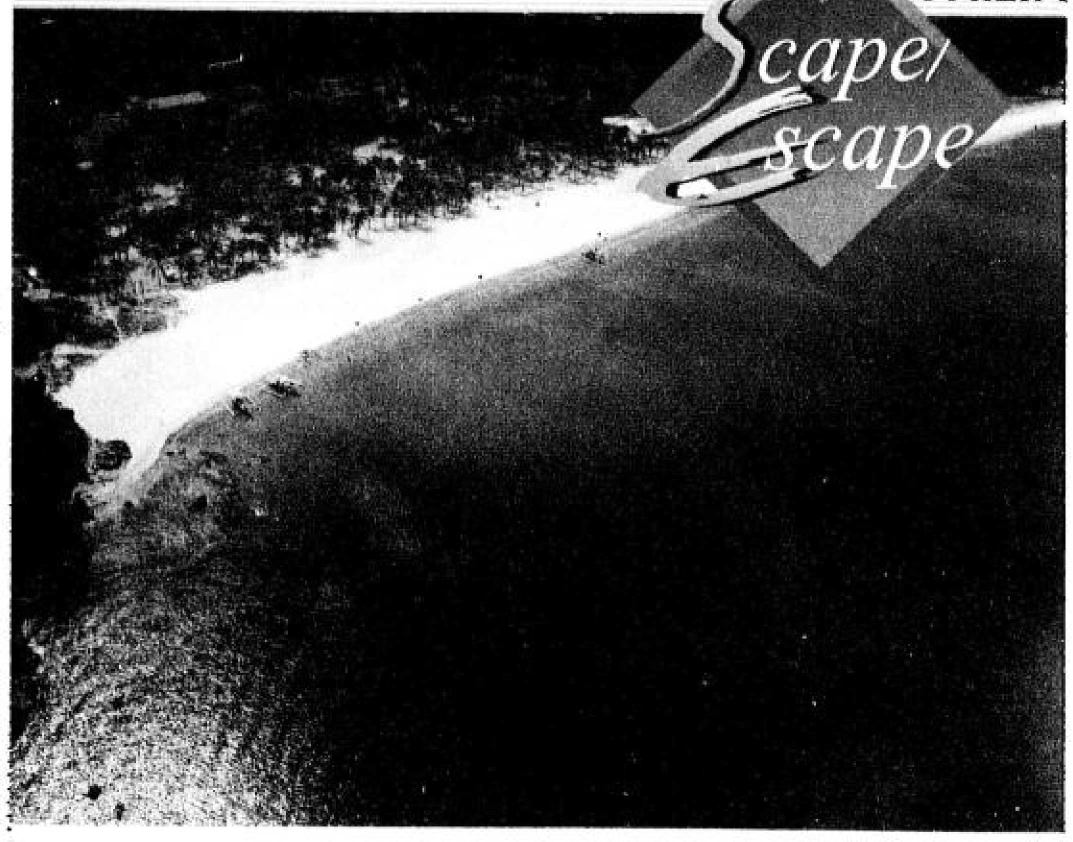


WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET. Montemar Beach Club, a 500-meter stretch of beige sand

Sunday LIFESTYLE

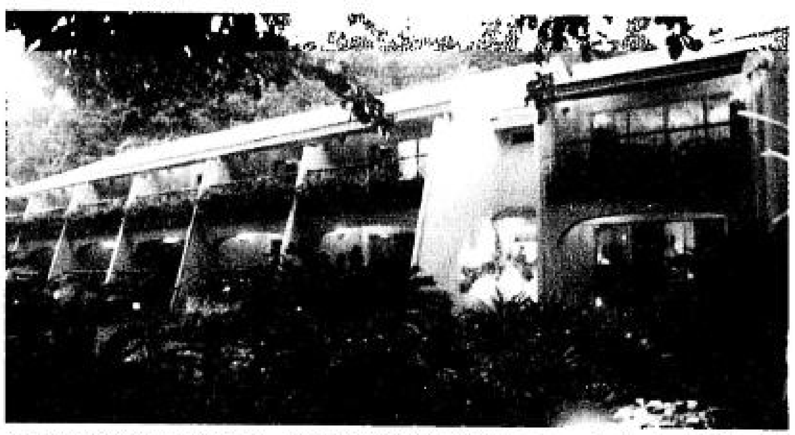
Cove of earthly delights

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

HAVE you ever been marooned on an island for three straight days and survived to relish the experience? Well, we did—and in style yet—despite the absence of such modern-day comforts as the TV, Internet and our ubiquitous Globe cell phone.

And the best part is, the island, okay, resort, is a mere hour and a half away from Manila by boat, and three hours by land. Indeed, Montemar Beach Club in the town of Bagac on the western coast of Bataan has been one of the

COVE/ p.F6



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CLOSE look of palay bursting with grains

FARM owners Joe and Edith Burgos advise students to avoid waste in eating rice (*kanin*).

A date with rice

WITH DELIGHTED squeals, young students of the Lakandula High School in Tondo, Manila daintily balanced themselves while trudging across the earthen rice bunds—*pilapil*, in Filipino—to have a date with rice, the life-giving grain that is so common yet so much ignored.

With their home economics and technology teachers, the youngsters, most of whom grew up in the concrete jungle with its garbage, traffic and pollution, savored briefly the bucolic life and enjoyed a mixed encounter with ripening palay stalks, common insects like dragonflies, spiders and earthworms, previously unaware that rice is harvested—with the help of these beneficial creatures—after six months of toil by farmers come rain or come shine.

This unique project of bringing students from urban centers to a rice farm to enhance their awareness of the role of farmers in national development and of the need to avoid wanton wastage of this staple crop is called Ricewalk.

Last Friday, more than 400 students from the Tondo public school had their first hard look at what rice is all about and how this valuable "weed" can change their life and their future.

A series of lectures by farmer-journalist Joe Burgos Jr. and his wife, Edita, a home economist and writer, and a dialogue with farmer-guides during the half-day field trip, underscored the advocacy to protect ricelands (which are now swiftly vanishing due to conversions) and to produce more rice to feed an increasing population.

Burgos, We Forum publisher and incumbent executive director of the Rice Media Advocacy Network-Philippines Inc. (RMAN), told the students of the bleak prospect of inadequate rice supply in the next 25 years.

Citing Dr. Emil Q. Javier, former president of the University of the Philippines who now heads the Asia Rice Foundation, Burgos pointed out that with the population upswing, the rice crisis has become more imminent amid decreasing rice yield and increasing population.

The same specter of the threat to food security in the next two decades also holds true for some, if not most Asian countries where rice is also the No. 1 source of food.

Jolting further the students, Burgos added that rice wastage by both producers and consumers is quite staggering. He cited statistics of post harvest losses and uneaten cooked rice amounting to 800 million kilos yearly. "This unnecessary wastage is enough to feed 7 million Filipinos every year," Burgos stressed.

"Ricewalk" is a short experiential learning adventure with, on and about rice. It is a one-day field visit to an integrated rice farm designed to give everyone, particularly students, a clearer understanding of, and a deeper insight into the importance of this vital commodity as food, as a means of livelihood to more than 7 million Filipino farmers and as a crucial link to our economic, social, cultural, religious and historical heritage.

The novel farm tour is regularly held at the 12-hectare Land Farm, owned by the Burgos family, located at Brgy. Tartaro, San Miguel, Bulacan, about 83 kilometers from Manila. The Burgoses who produce pesticide-free rice initiated the Ricewalk three years ago as their advocacy in making the public more concerned and aware of the rice problem. With the help of RMAN and the Philippine Home Economics Association, of which Burgos' wife Edita is the immediate past president and current chair of the association's special projects committee, Ricewalk has been expanded to cover more Metro Manila schools. RMAN's chair is agriculture editor Zac Sarian, while PHEA is currently headed by Dr. Letty Navarro of the Manila Schools Division.

The project is in cooperation with the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development-Department of Science and Technology and the Bureau of Agricultural Research-Department of Agriculture.

So far, more than 6,000 students from various public and private schools in Metro Manila have participated in the Ricewalk. During the rainy season, students are prompted to transplant rice stocks to experience how rice farmers sweat and toil to bring a bowl of polished rice *(kanin)* to their dining table.

Making students aware of the difficulties in planting and harvesting rice would hopefully convince Ricewalk participants to avoid wasting cooked rice, Edith told visiting media representatives last week. "After all, rice, indeed, is life," she added.

RIPENING rice stalks and marigold as pest control

FARMER-GUIDE briefs students during the Ricewalk.

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FIRST STEP IN BECOMING A GREAT SINGER ▶

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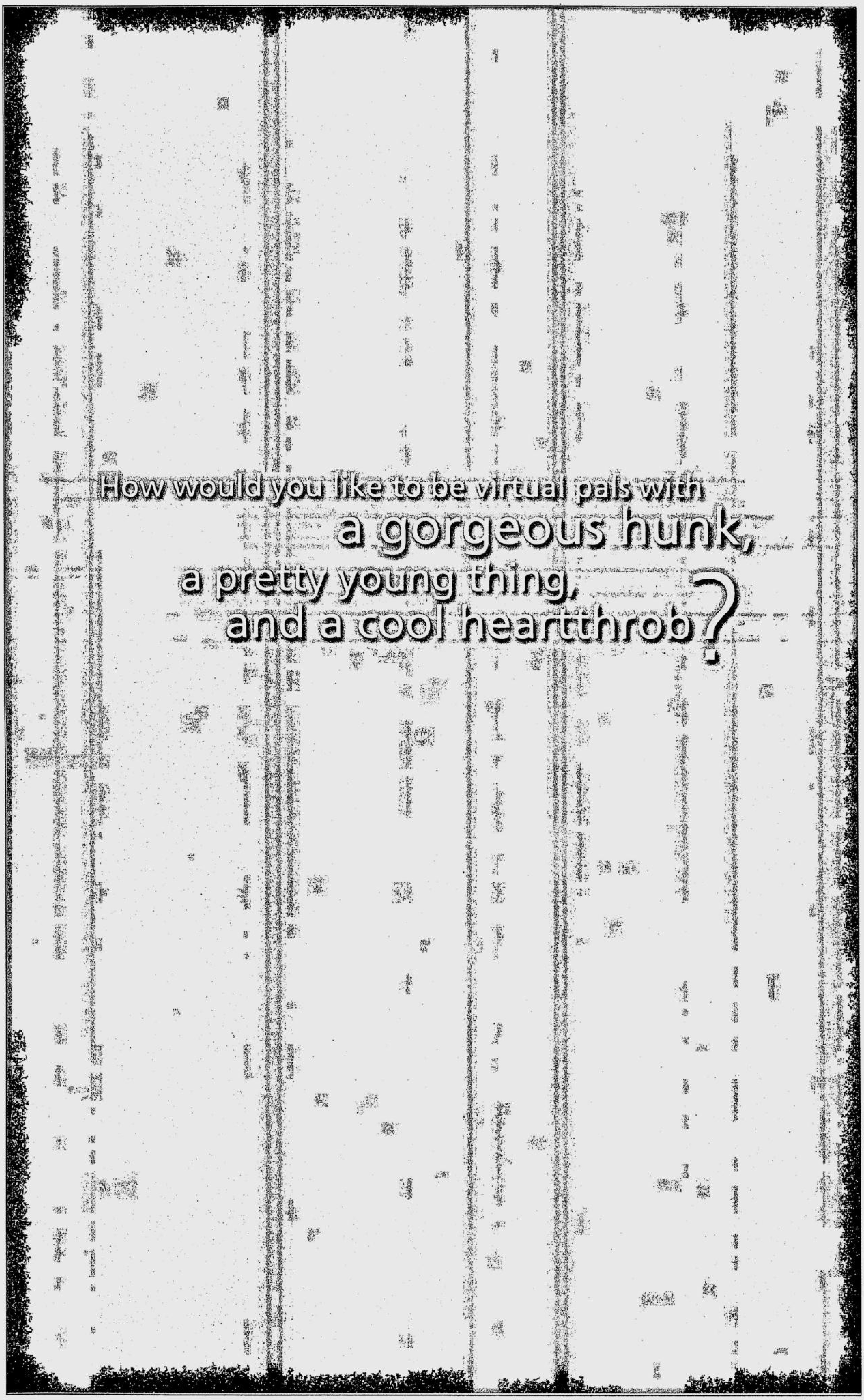

How would you like to be virtual pals with
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a pretty young thing,
and a cool heartthrob?

TRAVEL
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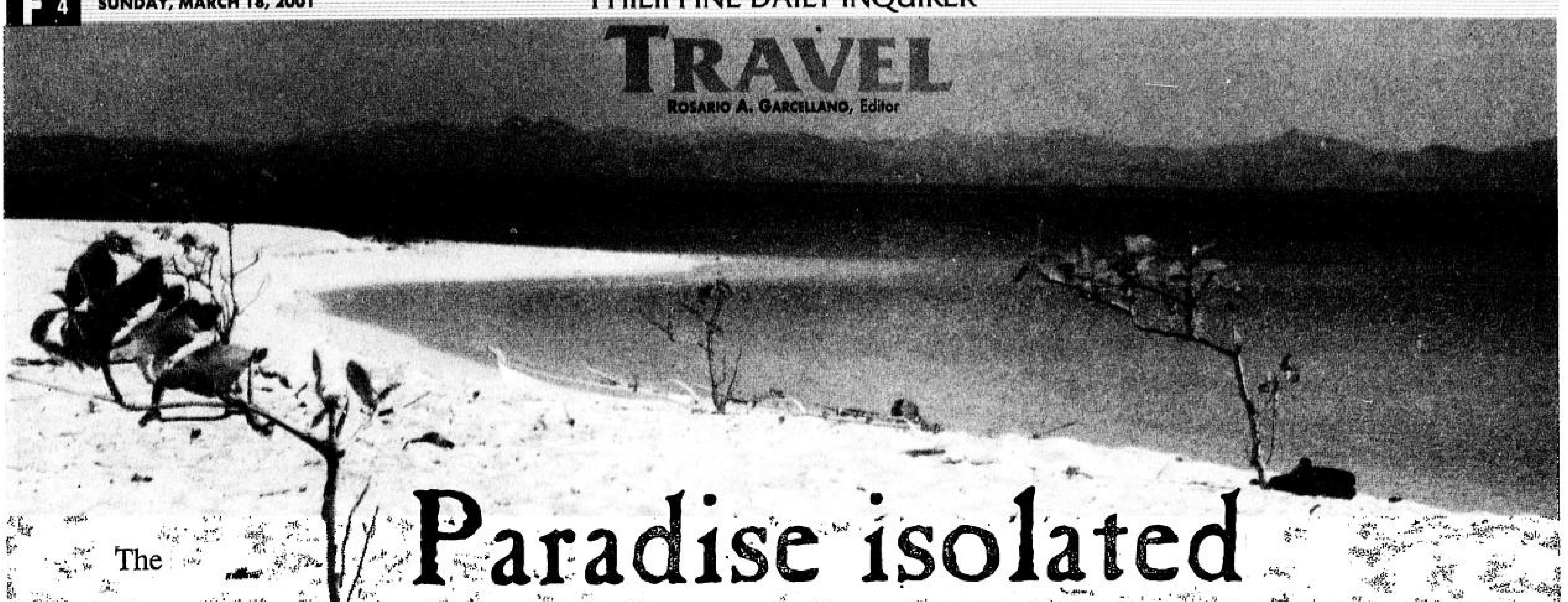


Paradise isolated

(but not quite)

The visitor is reduced to mouthing clichés—the trees were swaying, the breeze was cool, and yes, the birds were singing

BY REYEXCELL OROTYERRO

AN ISOLATED paradise is one of two islands that can be reached from the shore of Barrio Bolitok (named after a species of fish found in abundance in the town of Sta. Cruz). Owned by a businessman now down on his luck, it is located in the last town of Zambales and adjacent to the first town of Pangasinan.

The land is lush, with about 250 hectares of hilly terrain. Half of the surrounding coast is bordered with coarse white sand.

The island is called Hermana Menor (literally, "younger sister") by townsfolk and visitors who get there arrive after a 30-minute boat ride. But only with the prior approval of, first, the caretaker *Mang* Puling and, second, Barangay Capt. Hector M. Minimo.

Hermana Menor sits next to the much larger "big sister," Hermana Mayor, where the land has been parceled off as reward to the owner's loyal workers. People say it has become a self-efficient community consisting of 100 families who raise their own food crops and livestock, maintain a chapel and an elementary school, and observe their own peace and order. Unlike in the other island, a stricter system of visiting appointments is followed in Hermana Mayor.

It was a sunny morning when Sinimahan, a group composed of cineastes and journalists, embarked on the trip to Hermana Menor on the invitation of Sta. Cruz Mayor Luisito Marty, together with the assistant to the governor, Florence B. Alonzo. (It was Gov. Vicente Magsaysay who kindly provided inland transport.)

According to the mayor, early morning travel is better because it is less windy and the sea is calmer.

From the shore, on that clear day, we could sense a hypnotic invitation to go right ahead to the small picturesque isle. Off we went—13 of us, plus the five boatmen and the *capitan de barangay*—in between burps and gulps of steaming rice, fish *daing* with tomatoes, meat slices and omelet.

THE HOUSE of the landlord has a Hispanic-Mediterranean air to it.

BESIDE this guest house is a helipad.

Enthusiasm and anticipation churned within the pits of our stomachs as the boat undulated with the waves and wind. The girls were giggling and the boys were grinning. Florence was smiling, her earlier anxiety over the waves apparently blown away by the salt air.

Ten minutes before reaching the island coast, we could see at a certain angle the two isles, Menor and Mayor, seemingly attached, indeed like two intimate siblings.

The glistening emerald water splashing at the boat was cool and clear. The seabed appeared so near.

On the island

When we reached Hermana Menor, the sand felt good to our feet.

"The graininess is best for exfoliation," commented two beauty-conscious ladies. "Let's bring some home."

Island staff led by *Mang* Puling came out to greet us and called other workers to gather fresh *buko* to quench our thirst.

Most of us went off in various directions—basking in the sun, frollicking along the shore, plunging into the water.

"You'd think they just escaped the corral," said Florence. "Ah, to be young and free."

A kind driver escorted six of us to the back of an open truck. Florence refused the choice seat in front and insisted on joining us at the back.

We set off on the rocky, winding road, up and down the rugged terrain dotted by wild plants and trees (including papayas), and various crops.

I may sound hackneyed, but yes, the towering coconut trees were swaying, the breeze was cool, and the birds were singing.

At the highest point of the island is a private runway for the planes of the owner and other VIPs.

"Too bad we're not VIPs," I muttered to myself. But who cared? We had our boat ride, which was just as exciting.

Now, halfway in our truck ride, we seemed to have encircled the entire place. Passing through a long, sinuous path lined by thick, tall *ipil-ipil* and other wild trees and vines, we came upon a fenestration.

"What if," quipped Alya, "a snake suddenly falls on our heads?"

Her friend Ellen blurted out: "Stop it, *bruja* (witch)! I might fly out of here!"

Alya retorted: "Who do you think you are, Darna?" The trail leads to a big lagoon that used to serve as a fishpond. The driver was quick to say that *tilapia* was still thriving there.

Miss Universe

Later, we took a peek at Hermana Mayor, which is about 500 hectares in size and more than 30 minutes away from its "little sister" by boat.

You probably remember that in 1974, when the Miss Universe beauty pageant was held in the Philippines for the first time, it became known all over the world as "Miss Universe Island." It was included in the package prize for the winner.

The pre-pageant ceremony participated in by more than 80 candidates was held on the island, taped, presented and viewed around the globe.

The victor, Amparo Muñoz of Spain, spent her summer sojourn on the island during her reign. And since then, a few landlords have reigned there.

We looked at it, seemingly floating in its grandeur, proud yet inviting, separate but not distant.

Then we motored to the island's opposite side, where the landlord's house is located.

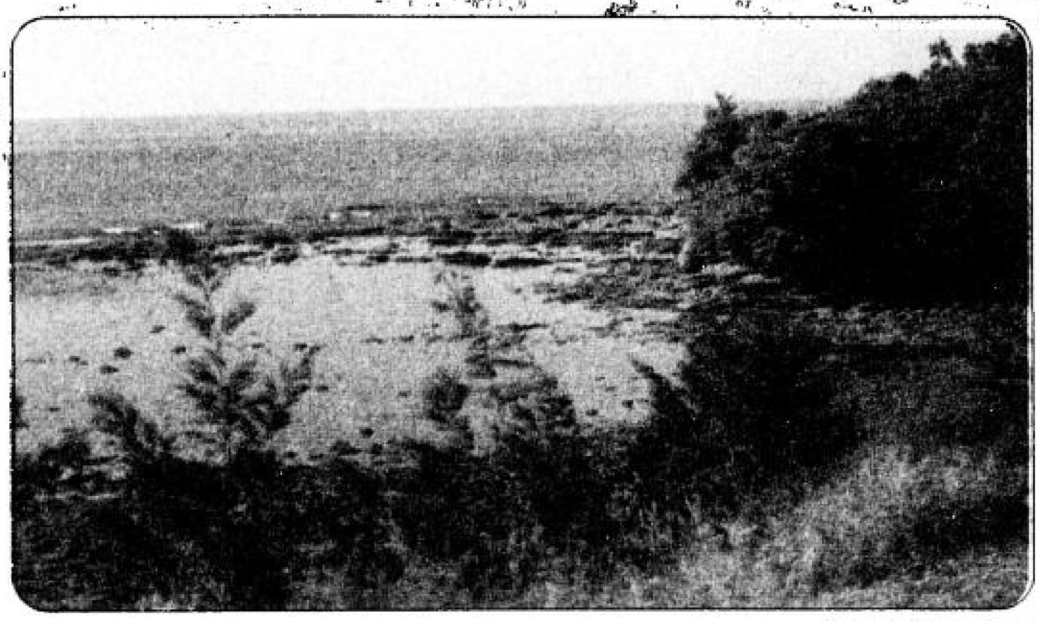
The sprawling bungalow is made of red brick, a shingled roof and white-painted walls. Green grass carpets the irregular contours of the spacious, landscaped yard.

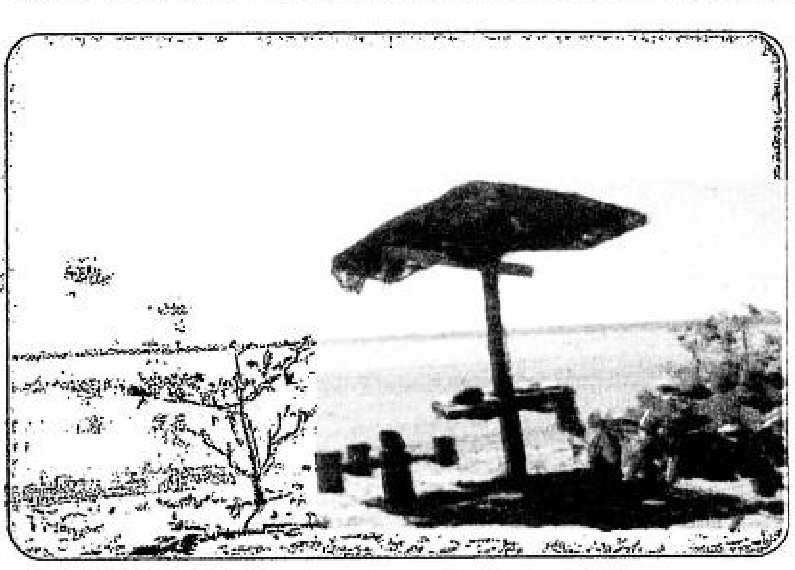
The site overlooks the Zambales ranges, where we came from.

We checked out the guest house, beside which is a helipad. It is near the beach area, where our friends were lolling in the sûn like mermaids with feet.

But before deciding to return, I asked one of my pals to help me gather ripe papayas, with or without permission.

Carrying the illegal harvest in our arms, we spotted two of our companions kayaking at a distance.





HALF of the coast (top) is airy and light, and the other half (above) is dark and rocky.

FROM THIS spot, one can see "Big Sister" in the distance.

Legends

Stories have been handed down from one generation to the next that Hermana Menor is cursed.

The sixtyish *Mang* Puling said he had been hearing the stories since he was a child. He said one such story, told by his grandparents, went this way:

The island used to be prosperous, but a strong typhoon ravaged it. An old woman bearing a fortune pleaded for help from the islanders, but they not only refused but also robbed and later killed her. Before she drew her last breath, she cursed the island and everyone living on it to a life of misfortune.

Hearing the stories, and the revelation that succeeding owners of the land had been plagued by bad luck, I let my thoughts race as swiftly as the current of the sea. Can it be that even the coast is revealing something? Half of it is made up of soft, white sand, and the other half, of dark, sharp rocks—an interesting subject for feng shui.

But then again, sweet roses bear thorns. Colorful butterflies cause blindness. The brilliance of the sun glares. Water drowns. Fire is beneficial, but it can kill.

Nature has its ambivalence and ambiguity. The creative and wise use of the human mind is required to be able to harness its full potential for humanity's greatest good. If not…

Mayor Marty arrived just in time with an aide to see to our comfort.

It turned out that he had even cooked for us in his own home. "That's one of his good traits," Florence said. "One of his hobbies as *ama ng bayan* (father of the community)."

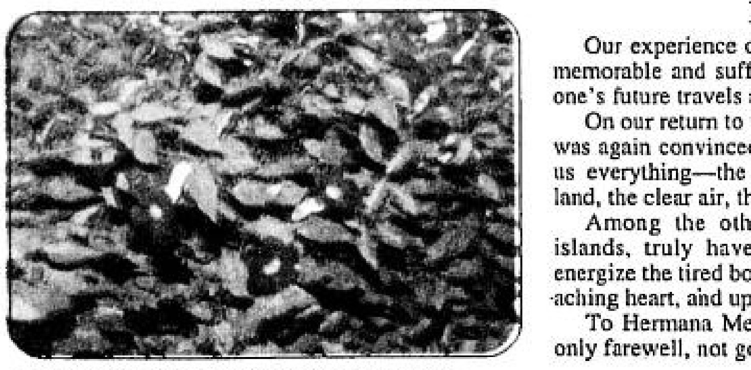
Farewell

Our experience on the island, though brief, was memorable and sufficient to serve as provision for one's future travels and solace to his travails.

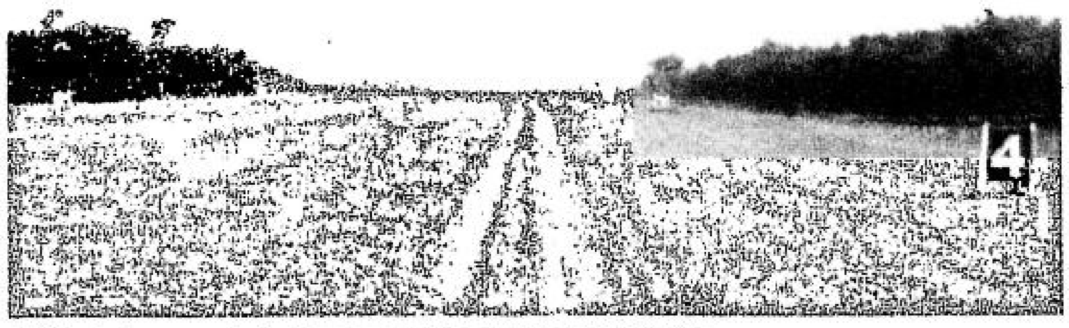
On our return to the mainland, I looked back and was again convinced that nature had truly provided us everything—the bounty of the sea, the fertile land, the clear air, the life-sustaining sun.

Among the other blessings are the isolated islands, truly havens of peace and beauty that energize the tired body, soothe the restless mind and aching heart, and uplift the searching soul.

To Hermana Menor and its "big sister," it was only farewell, not goodbye.



PURPLE blossoms thrive amid the green.



THIS private runway is for the planes of the owner and other VIPs.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Journey of faith

PILGRIMS are invited to view the beautiful Marian and Eucharistic shrines in Europe with Fr. Jerry Orbos for 16 days.

They can look forward to enjoying the city of Lisbon and attending Mass at the Chapel of the Apparition; driving through the picturesque countryside and arriving in Burgos and Lourdes; riding a train to Nice and then on to Lucerne, taking in breathtaking scenery while crossing the borders of France and Switzerland; and getting a spectacular view of the Italian lakes en route to Florence and Assisi.

From there, pilgrims can look forward to these activities: Mass at the Basilica of Sta. Maria Delle Angelie, visits to the Basilica of San Francesco and the Basilica of St. Claire to view her incorrupt body; another drive to Montefalco to visit another Augustinian church; and finally, a "Visita Iglesia" and a papal audience in the Eternal City of Rome.

The journey of faith is scheduled on May 16-30.

For more information, call Annie Lukban at 939-6528; Baby Hizon, 925-0104/920-4259; Josie R. Saddul 928-6008/926-8591; or the office of Father Orbos c/o Nida, 721-7457.

Summer promos

THE ISLAND Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite, is offering "Cool Summer Promos" this season.

With the Any Day Getaway promo, guests are entitled to overnight accommodations and a set breakfast for two at P2,600.

Those who wish to take a break for a day may do so with a P100 entrance fee per person, consumable at any of the resort's sports and recreation facilities or dining outlets.

Special tour packages are also available for company, family and *barkada* outings of a minimum of 15 persons, starting at P420 per person.

The packages cover entrance to the resort; lunch; secured parking; use of the Oceania swimming pool, shower and changing rooms, and reserved area; use of volleyball and basketball courts; and all applicable taxes and service charge.

For reservations and inquiries, call (046) 434-0201 in Cavite, or the Makati Sales Office at 810-3740 or 3728, or toll free numbers 810-3718, 810-3732, 810-3764 and 810-5683. Or e-mail at islacove@info.com.ph or visit www.islandcovephil.com.

Mt. Guiting-Guiting

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste has filed Senate Bill 2201 that seeks to establish the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park on Sibuyan Island in Romblon.

The proposed natural park shall cover some 15,475 hectares and span 15 barangays in the towns of Magdiwang, Cajidiocan and San Fernando, all in Sibuyan.

In her bill, Legarda raised the need for Congress to "preserve and protect Mt. Guiting-Guiting's unique bio-diversity as well as its aesthetic and ecological value."

The mountain is home to fascinating flora and fauna that include four species of rodents and a kind of bat discovered only in the mid-1990s and found nowhere else in the world.

It also serves as haven for many threatened species, including the Philippine tube-nosed bat, previously known to originate only from Negros

With an elevation of 2,058 meters, the mountain dominates the landscape of the 47,745-hectare Sibuyan Island. It also sustains the lives of, and is mythic symbol to the island's 50,000 residents.

About half the area of Sibuyan remains covered with mangrove and mossy forests. Its lowland forest is known to be the densest in the country in terms of species diversity, being the habitat of up to 54 endemic plant varieties.

The proposed natural park is expected to promote low-impact recreation and tourism that would, in turn, heighten public awareness of the need to preserve the environment, according to Legarda.'

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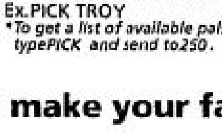

Troy: Hi I'm your Celebrity Pal Troy!

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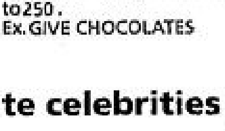
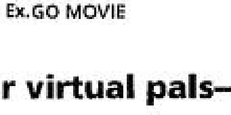
*To get a list of available pals, type PICK and send to 250.



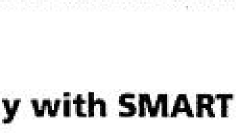
Diet: Choco Mania! Tnx

2. Give your Celebrity Pal gifts. Type GIVE <item> and send to 250. Ex. GIVE CHOCOLATES



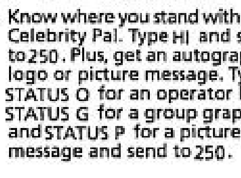
Claudine: Sige, let's go. I haven't seen a movie in a long time.

3. Go places with your Celebrity Pal. Type GO <place> and send to 250. Ex. GO MOVIE



Troy: Ok! But only on the cheek!

4. Show how you feel. Type HUG or KISS and send to 250.



Claudine: You got me!

5. Know where you stand with your Celebrity Pal. Type HI and send to 250. Plus, get an autographed logo or picture message. Type STATUS O for an operator logo, STATUS G for a group graphic and STATUS P for a picture message and send to 250.

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Watch Out! More Celebrity Pals Coming Soon!

SET! Jardine real-estate agents enjoy a game of beach volleyball.

DANCING coconut trees down by the beach.

HORSE WHISPERER. Man and animal bask in nature

Cove of earthly delights

(From page F1)

province's best-kept secrets since the resort reopened a few years ago.

"We purposely dropped the TV since we don't want our guests to get distracted," explains Christine Ibarreta, Montemar's sales and marketing manager. "Some complain about it, but an overwhelming majority like the idea. It allows them to bond with their families while they relax and unwind."

And there are no landlines, too. For some reason, only Smart cell phones work in this part of the province. The mountains surrounding Bagac, including historic Mt. Samat, where a giant memorial in the form of a cross is planted at its peak, must have obscured Globe's signal.

Your credit is good but Montemar needs cash. The absence of reliable telephone lines is definitely one reason the resort accepts only cash. Guests can pay before they check out of the resort or soon after they arrange their bookings at Montemar's Makati office. Call tel. nos. 892-6497 and 892-6498.

"Some foreigners can't believe their ears when we tell them that," says Ibarreta, with a chuckle. There was even a time when an Indonesian guest ran out of pesos and had to settle his bill in rupiah. US dollars are most welcome, but pesos will do nicely, thank you.

Public welcome

Montemar used to cater to an exclusive clientele composed of members and their families. In 1996, the new set of owners decided to open its doors to the public as well. Before that, the resort had embarked on an expansion program, which included building more rooms and better facilities.

Guests, for instance, can choose between the beach, the entire 500-meter stretch of it, or the deep blue swimming pool (yes, designers opted for dark blue tiles instead of the usual white) surrounded by dancing coconut trees, stone hedges and lush garden foliage. A cabana juts out in the middle of the pool to provide guests with a selection of thirst-quenching fruit juices and all-time favorite sodas.

Since it faces the China Sea, Montemar is relatively free from the trash and oil slicks that have become a permanent fixture on Manila Bay. The resort is actually part of a cove sandwiched by a pair of lush hills. Summer winds, thank goodness, are as fresh and calming as the sea.

Landlubbers can opt to jog along the seashore, where smog and other city irritants are virtually nonexistent. Or they can stroll down the beach hand in hand with loved ones as they marvel at the sunset.

DEEP BLUE POOL. The area is all lit up and set for the evening's party.

There's no television in Montemar, the better for you to enjoy the place

WHERE horses graze

HEAVY LOAD. A student from Brent School checks in with her classmates.

Montemar's beige sand may not be as powdery as the white variety on Boracay, but you can walk on the beach without your feet turning into corkboard pinned with jagged stones and sharp seashells. Parents have lesser worries about their kids' safety due to the resort's short beach strip.

Rich marine life

For P250 an hour, guests can either rent a kayak, aqua cycle or a boat. The cove is also a rich source of marine life that's bound to excite and warm the hearts of urban fishermen as they cast their line. Or they can shoot the breeze while on horseback.

Aside from occasional fishing boats, "Jalosjos" Island (yes, referred to by locals after former congressman and convicted rapist Romeo Jalosjos) and the mothballed nuclear power plant, which resembles an odd-looking lighthouse from afar, in nearby Morong, complete the picturesque vista.

The island, actually called as Matikis, got its new name after pursuing lawmen caught Jalosjos hiding inside one of the *nipa* huts in the sparsely populated hideaway. No, the lawmaker-turned-lawbreaker didn't use Montemar as a jump-off point while on the lam.

"He didn't fit our guest profile," says Ibarreta with a wink.

Ideal

People in a hurry or on a shoestring budget are also most welcome. They need not book a room to avail of Montemar's facilities. Aside from unlimited access to the beach, so-called day guests can also use a smaller pool fronting the conference building, a white structure housing the ballroom and several function rooms.

With such facilities for parties and meetings, Montemar has become an ideal venue for team-building seminars and field trips as well. With the recent opening of a nine-hole golf course, business people and executives have discovered another reason to stay longer.

"We try to give something back to our members and guests in the form of new and better facilities," says Ibarreta.

President and general manager Vicky Gonzales plans to build another set of 50 rooms in front of the conference building. The resort has recently upgraded its restaurant by constructing several outdoor areas connected to the main dining room called El Meson. A food and beverage director has just come on board to further spice up the menu. By the way, the *kare-kare* and *pinakbet* are to die for.

Each of the 70 air-conditioned rooms at the two-story Mediterranean style hotel is furnished with rustic rattan pieces. Verandahs lined with potted bougainvillea provide visitors with a generous view of sun, sea and sand.

Green feast

A number of rooms open to a feast of greenery: coconut, mango, mahogany, *narra* and *talisay* trees. The resort has become a botanical nursery of sorts as a number of trees in the 12-hectare property are labeled with their popular and scientific names.

Rooms are classified as deluxe (P1,000++ per head) and gallery (P925++ per head). The gallery room, which comes with a loft, has enough space for a family of four plus a companion or two. For big families and those used to living in sprawling spaces, Montemar also offers a couple of premier and executive suites ($185++ a night).

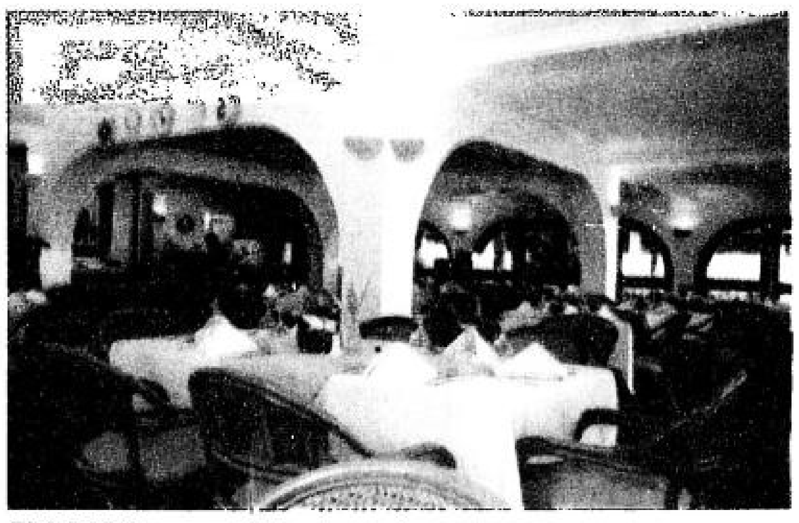
"At least two children below 12 are free of charge," adds Ibarreta.

No kids? No problem. You can always spend the extra time curled up in bed reading a good book before the distant drone of lapping waves lull you to sleep.

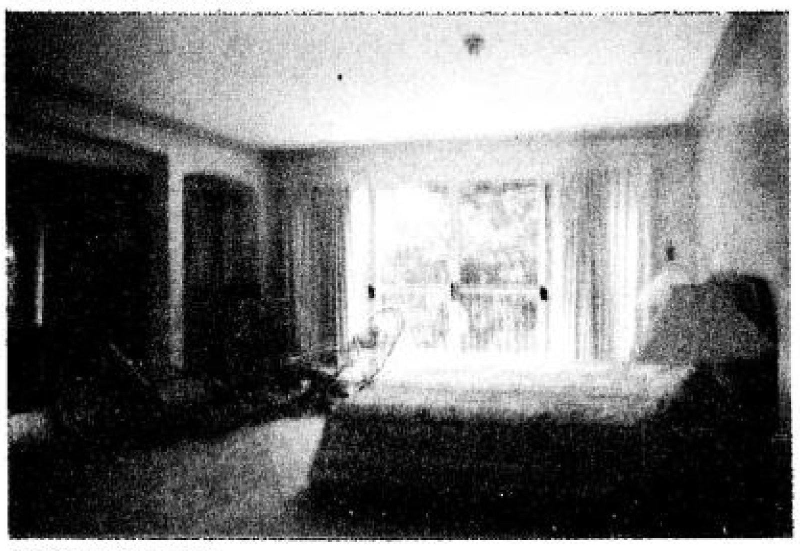
Mt. Samat Ferry Express, with a terminal at the CCP Complex in Manila, transports passengers (P180 per head) to Bataan and vice versa. Its clean and air-conditioned catamaran (the company now has three) leaves the waters of Manila every 90 minutes or so. In less than an hour, guests reach the town of Orion, where a van awaits them for the 35-minute drive (prior arrangement is necessary) to the resort.

There, a world unto itself awaits them. A quiet place so near yet so far away from the zany realm of inane TV shows, alarming radio programs and, to a certain extent, annoying cell phones.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

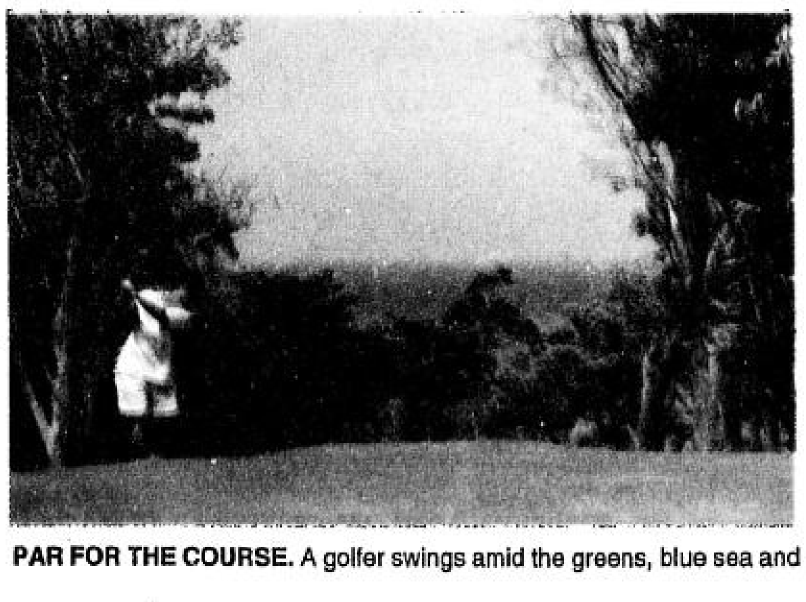


EL MESON restaurant



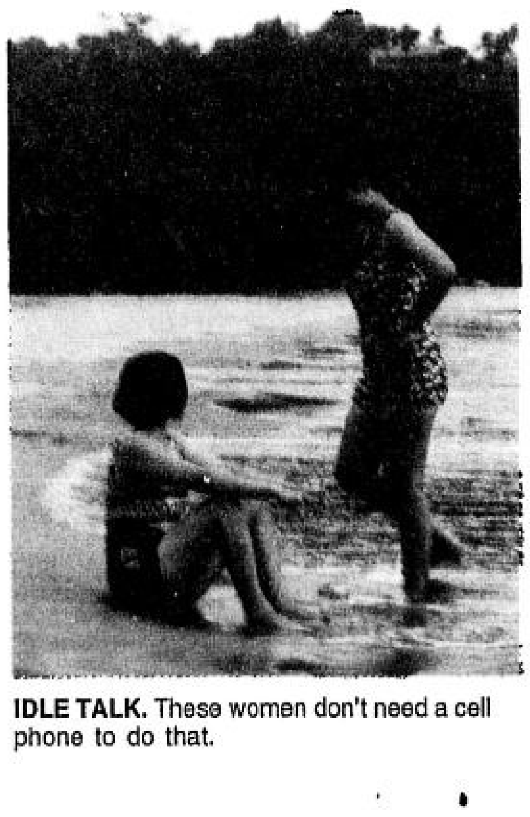
ROOM with a view

PEDAL AWAY. Riding the aqua cycle isn't as easy as it seems.



PAR FOR THE COURSE. A golfer swings amid the greens, blue sea and a mothballed nuclear power plant

PADDLE AWAY. Kayaking before sundown



IDLE TALK. These women don't need a cell phone to do that.

Singles who feel they're unlucky in love

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm in my early 30s, a loner and an introvert. I have no love life to speak of. I'm not comfortable talking to people. After the customary "hi" and "hello," nothing else comes out of my mouth. It's very embarrassing. If I try to speak, I get so nervous that words won't flow out smoothly. Adding to the pressure is the thought that every lady expects a man of my age to know what to do or say when with her.

I think I'm falling in love with this girl whom I met recently, but I can't even ask her for a date. I'm afraid that if I try, it will be disastrous and she will surely reject me. I feel that nobody will ever understand or accept me for what I am.

Will I be a bachelor for the rest of my life? Will I never experience what it's like to love and be loved? I feel so useless and frustrated about myself.

SAM

I'M 35, single and have a stable job. But it seems I'm unlucky in love. I have been praying and searching for the right man, but nothing has happened.

I'm not pretty, but I'm presentable. And although I'm not a *gimikera*, I go out with friends. But I still can't find or attract a guy. I want to join clubs, but I'm afraid they're expensive. Sometimes I think of joining charismatic or Christian organizations, but I don't know anyone who will introduce me to those groups.

I feel that my life is empty. I'm worried about staying single because I'm not rich and when I grow old and can no longer work, my brothers and sisters might not be able to take care of me because they have their own families. What should I do, Tita?

MAY

In his book, "Tuesdays with Morrie," Mitch Albom mentioned that in a college football game, students kept cheering the home team with unending yells of "We're No. 1!" Morrie, who was Albom's favorite professor (and mentor on the meaning of life), stood up and shouted something which silenced the crowd: "What's wrong with being No. 2?"

Indeed, what's wrong with not being the best? What's wrong with simply being good? In fact, who said that in everything and for everyone, being No. 1 is being the best? What's wrong with just being you? And if you are already in your 30s and still unattached, what's terribly wrong with that?

Did God say that we can't enjoy life if we are without a sweetheart or a spouse? God didn't say that. It's "the crowd"—commerce, especially—who has been yelling that. (And yells it loudest every Valentine's Day.)

The crowd's message seems to be that life is not complete if we don't have a "partner." I don't agree. I think that for each of us, life is complete anytime we are happy with ourselves—and we ourselves, not the crowd, should define what makes us happy.

I suspect that a lot of single people who are of (or who are past) the "marrying age" have been living unhappily because they had been convinced that being happy means being married—and they are not. That's sad because it ignores the obvious: every day, millions of married people regret that they took the plunge and fell flat on their noses. (Remember the saying, "Marriages are made in heaven, but so are thunder and lightning"?)

Singles who have spent years looking for a partner but failed, should, I think, pause. They have not been much different from people obsessed with their careers, failing to notice or even deliberately ignoring a lot of other opportunities as they rush headlong toward a goal which, it could turn out, they might not reach, or, if attained, they might not be happy with. Stop and smell the flowers.

No particular person has to be our partner for us to be happy. The whole world, every nice thing in it, can be our partner. And since deep in each of us, we know we are nice, then we can always be partners to ourselves. So why be miserable when you're "alone"? You are never alone. You have you.

If you are not happy with yourself, then improve it. But improve it not because you want to be attractive to the other sex. Improve it, rather, because you want to appreciate yourself better. Improve yourself because you want to see better how nice you are indeed!

So, Sam, you might want to read more self-help books or attend courses on speech and personality improvement. Also, read a lot, not just to get interesting data which you can use during conversations, but also to see how the same subjects are viewed differently by different people, and how convincing they make their arguments.

You might also try writing a journal or a diary—a very non-public way of practicing self-expression, of organizing your thoughts and putting them into words, of focusing on your weaknesses and your good points without the risk of being overheard and labeled a wimp or an egoist. Then move on from expressing yourself on paper to expressing yourself in conversations.

And as you seek to gain self-confidence and the ability to express yourself, remember that you are not doing that to be attractive to girls. You are doing that primarily because you want to bring out the best in you. If girls notice you in the process, consider that as a welcome bonus.

As for you, May, you might want to concentrate a little more on your job, or on ways to earn more and save more. If you're worried about being taken care of in your old age, the solution might be a good amount of savings or a good pension plan. So, if you're not a *gimikera* then stop forcing yourself to be one just because you want to find your future private nurse. If you save enough, then in your old age, you can always hire one.

Also, why not explore the possibility of "adopting" a child of a relative and raising her as your own? If she grows up feeling that you love her as your daughter, she'll likely see you through your old age as her mother.

As to joining organizations, that will indeed increase your visibility, your circle of acquaintances and your chances of meeting your future partner. But don't join an organization just for that purpose. Join one, instead, because that organization matches your views and values and will make you more true to yourself.

When you're in an organization that suits the real you, you'll not only be a useful member; you'll also honestly enjoy yourself and it probably won't matter to you much that you don't have a partner. In fact, in such a case, having no partner might not be a problem for long. People who honestly enjoy themselves are quite attractive.

E-mail the author at titadulce-@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO, 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Jesus' first talk at Peter's House

COMPILED BY TELLY ALBERT ZULUETA

MARIA Valtorta writes: "Jesus speaks from the terrace at Peter's home, full of people and others in the kitchen-garden (***PDI Lifestyle, 03/11/01***).

"Peace to men of good will. Peace and blessings to their homes, their women, their children. May the grace and light of God reign in your homes and in your hearts, dwelling in them.

"You have wished to hear me. The Word is speaking. It speaks with joy to the honest, with sorrow to the dishonest, with delight to the holy and pure, with mercy to sinners. It does not deny Itself. It has come to spread out like a river that flows to irrigate lands needing water, fertilizing them at the same time with humus.

"You want to know what is required to become disciples of the Word of God, of the Messiah, Word of the Father, Who has come to gather Israel together, that it may hear once again the words of the holy and immutable Decalogue and may be sanctified by them. Thus, to be purified for the Hour of Redemption and of the Kingdom, as far as man can be purified by himself.

"Now, I say to the deaf, the blind, the dumb, the lepers, the paralytic, the dead: 'Rise you who are healed, walk and may the rivers of light, of words, of sounds open for you, that you may see and hear Me and speak of Me.'

" 'But rather than to your bodies, I am speaking to your souls. Men of good will, come to Me without fear. If your souls are injured, I will cure them. If they are dead, I will raise them. All I want is your good will.

" 'Is what I ask difficult? No, it is not. I do not impose on you the hundreds of precepts of the rabbis. I say to you: Follow the Decalogue. The Law is one and immutable. Many centuries have gone by since it was given, beautiful and pure, fresh, like a new-born creature, like a rose just opened on its stem. Simple, neat, easy to follow. Throughout centuries, faults and trends have complicated it with many minor laws, with burdens and restrictions, with too many painful clauses. I am bringing once again the Law to you as the Most High gave it. But, in your own interest, I ask you to accept it with sincere hearts, like the true Israelites of bygone times.

" 'You grumble, more in your hearts than with your lips, that it is the fault of the people in the upper classes, rather than of humble people. I know. Deuteronomy states what is to be done, nothing else was necessary. But do not judge those who acted for other people, not for themselves. Do what God commands. And above all, strive and be perfect in the two main precepts.

" 'If you love God with your whole soul, you will not sin, because sin gives pain to God. Who loves, does not want to give pain. If you love your neighbors as you love yourselves, you will be respectful children to your parents, faithful husbands to your wives, honest merchants in your trade, without any violence against your enemies, truthful in bearing witness, without envy of wealthy people, without any lewdness for another man's wife.

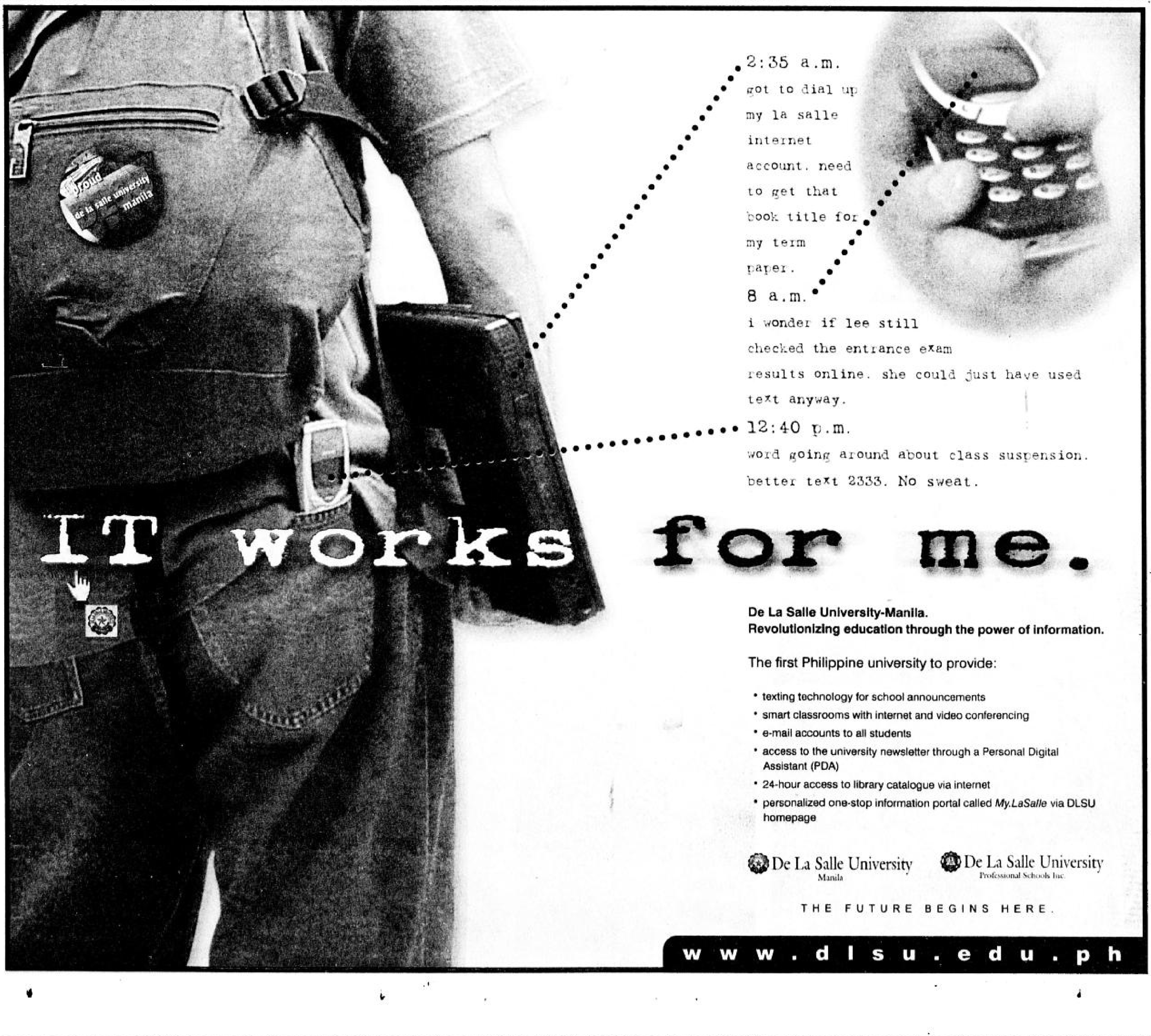
" 'And as you want to do to other people what you do not wish should be done to you, you will not steal, or kill or slander, or enter someone else's nest like cuckoos.

" 'Nay, I say unto you: 'Carry to perfection your obedience to the two precepts of love. How much the Most High will love you, since He loves man so much. Although man became His enemy because of the original sin, and because of his personal sins, He sent man the Redeemer, the Lamb Who is His Son, that is I, Who am speaking to you, the Messiah promised to redeem you from your sins, if you will learn to love as He does.

"Love! May your love become a ladder by which, like angels, you will ascend to Heaven, as Jacob saw them, when you hear the Father say to each and everybody: 'I will bring you back to this place, to Heaven, the Eternal Kingdom.' Jesus finishes with 'Peace be with you.'"

To be continued next week

(Taken from "The Public Life of Jesus" Vol. III, Book 4 of "Poem of the Man-God." To order, call Rocky Caesar at 823-8105 or call Legion of Little Souls 809-2409 (55-40)



2:35 a.m.
got to dial up my la salle internet account. need to get that book title for my term paper.
8 a.m.
i wonder if lee still checked the entrance exam results online. she could just have used text anyway.
12:40 p.m.
word going around about class suspension. better text 2333. No sweat.

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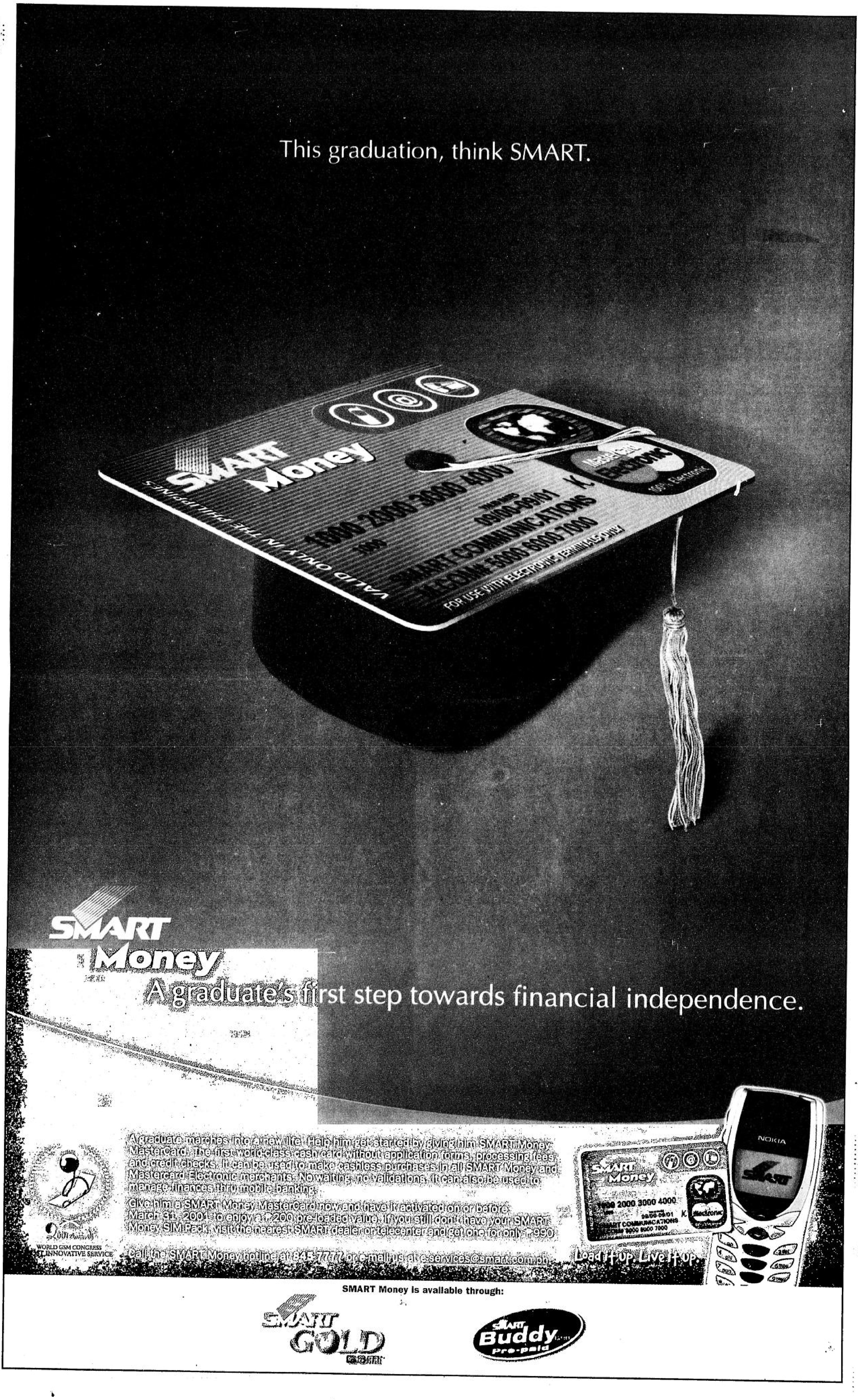
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Story on page G2

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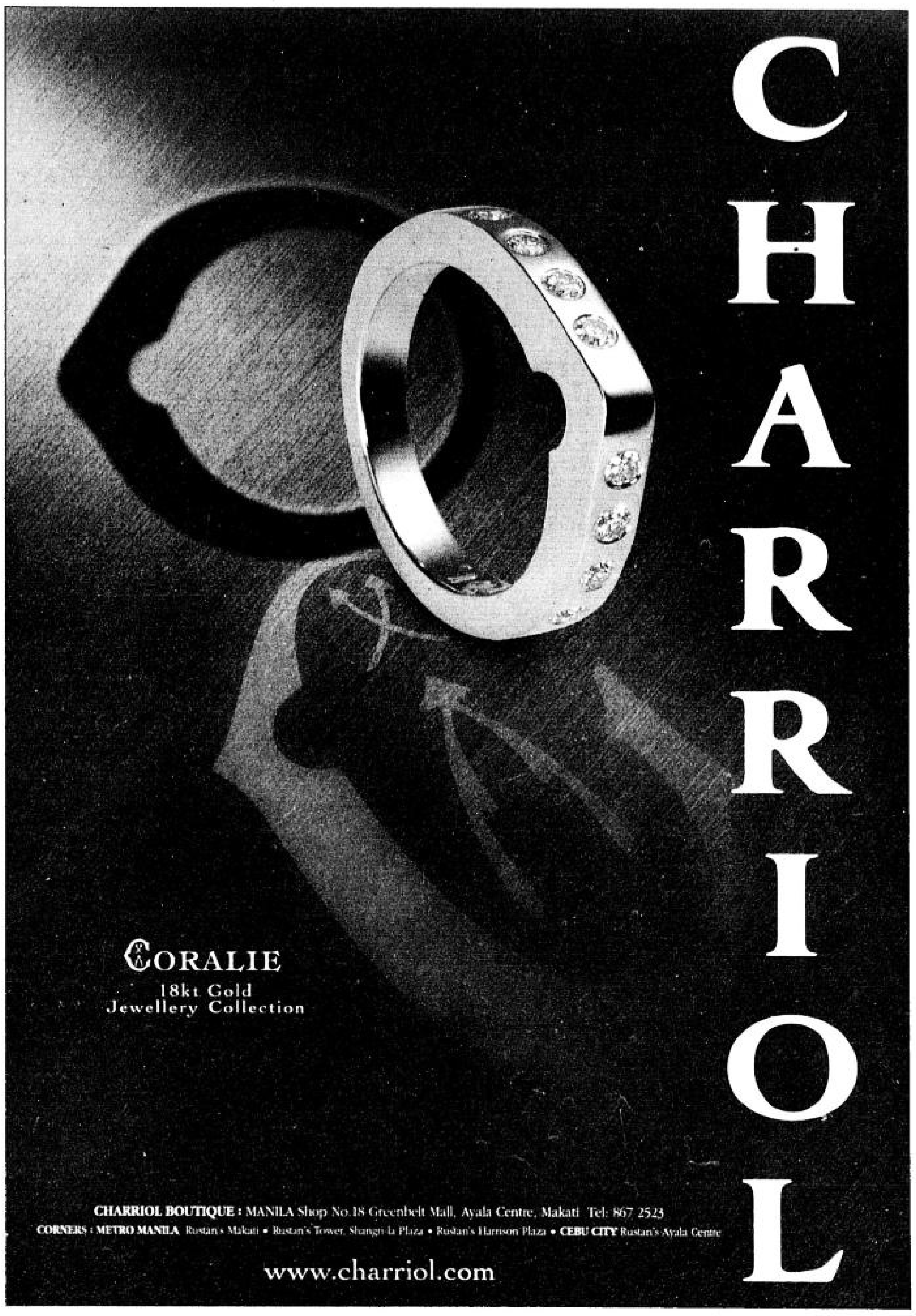

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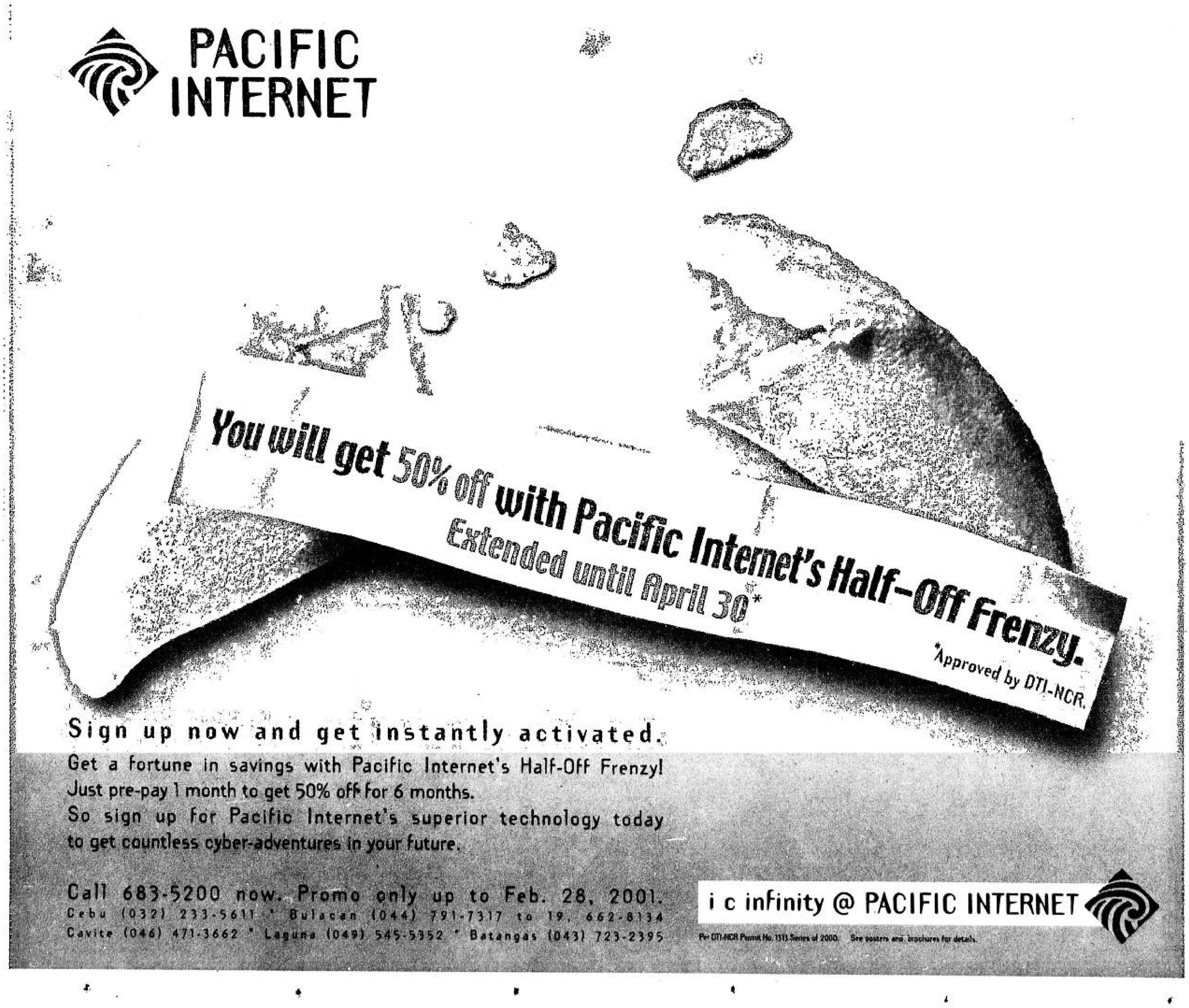

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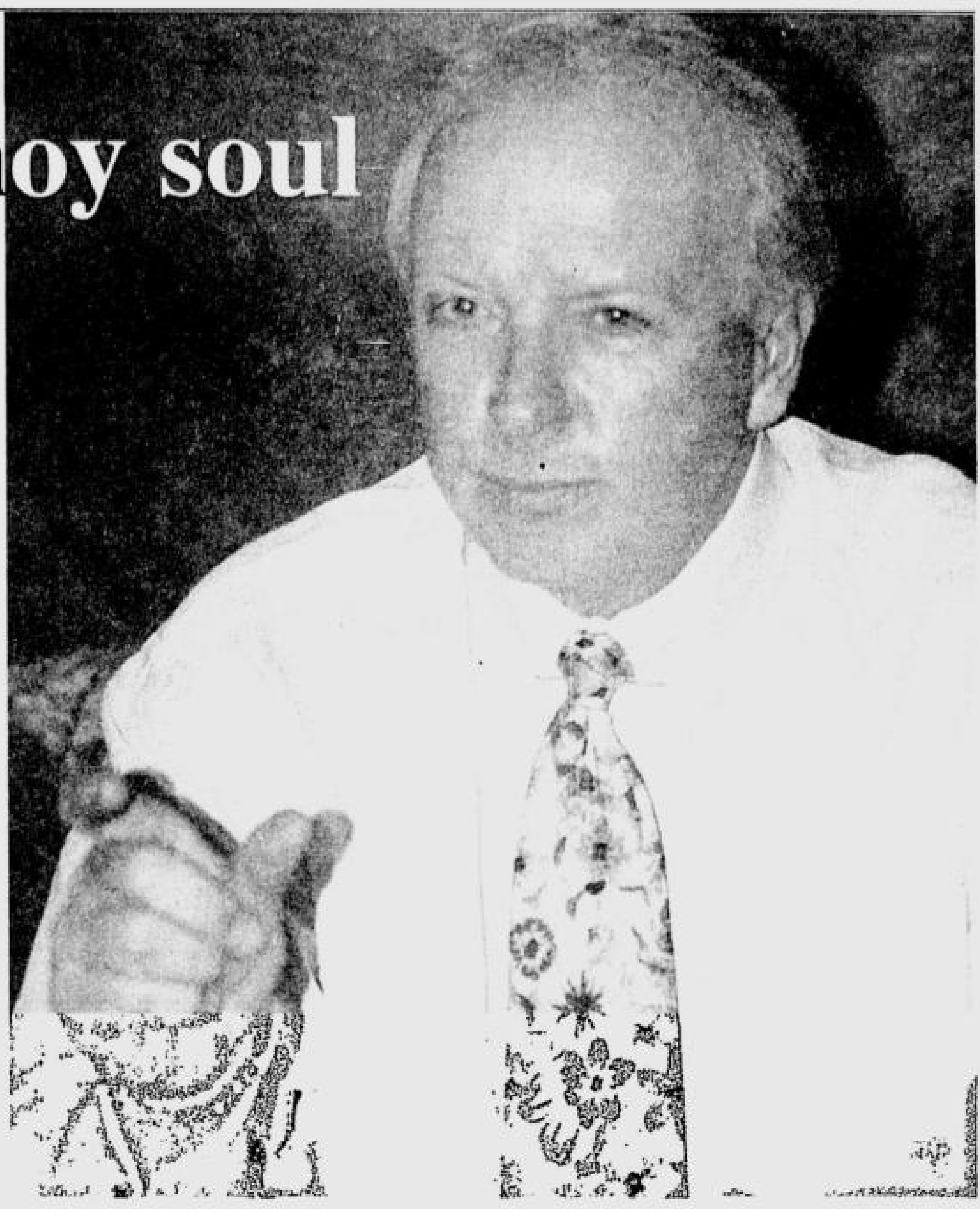
MARK VICTOR HANSEN

Chicken soup for the Pinoy soul



PLAYTIME

By the staff

A BIG man with a big heart are the words that best describe Mark Victor Hansen, more popularly known as the creator of the best-selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series of books. With partner Jack Canfield, Hansen has created what Time magazine calls "the publishing phenomenon of the decade," selling 60 million books in the United States alone.

Hansen is towering at 6'4" and exudes the goodness that his books are world-famous for. In addition to being an author, he is also master motivator and speaker—encouraging people to live their dreams. "You don't have what you want because you don't ask for it" has been his mantra. Hansen believes in the inherent goodness of each individual and in the resiliency of the human spirit.

For over 26 years, he has focused on helping people from all walks of life reshape their personal vision of what's possible for themselves. In key cities all over the world, his message of hope and opportunity reverberates and has helped create powerful changes in the lives of millions of people.

Hansen has been named one of the Top 10 Greatest Motivational Speakers. Powerful, life-shifting speakers like Og Mandino and Zig Ziglar count him as one of the most "dynamic and meaningful speakers" of this age. Last year he was inducted into the prestigious circle of Horatio Alger award recipients (for humanitarianism) because of the remarkable path of life he's followed for himself and had opened for others.

An afternoon spent with Hansen is good for one's spirit. A man who brims over with stories about love, hope, sorrow and joy helps restore one's belief in the goodness of the human heart. "Everyone has a story to tell," he says. And when we asked him what sets apart "Chicken Soup's" stories, what makes them reach out to many, his answer was simple: "Heart."

> 'We have these terrible shootings in America. The bottom line is exactly why we do these storybooks'

Soup's good. It's nourishing and (Campbell's) coming in with some less expensive soups. Their slogan is: "Mmmm… good!" They want to nourish your body and they want us to nourish your soul, mind and heart, and get you scraped up. Get your culture going again. You guys have so much political and civil unrest. (Chuckles) Forgive me. I'm not being judgmental. I'm just saying may be it will settle down under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. God, I hope so for your sake. You've been beat up and pulverized enough. What I wanna do is excite people to turn on the engine called their life, their being-ness and self-esteem, and take them anywhere in the world where they wanna go. 'Cause you all are doing such great thinking and yet you export most of your great talent to the US and elsewhere. (Chuckles) With the Internet, for the first time, people will be able to stay home, make fabulous amounts of money and start building the Philippines from the inside out all over again.

Hopefully.

That's my goal. I want families to be able to stay together and you have... families (here) where you got a mother and a father and a bunch of kids 'cause your culture is predominantly Catholic. It's a great historical culture where everyone is multilingual and you have the propensity to become one of the tigers, if that's want you want to be.

Is this your first time in the country?

Second. I must not have got it right when I was here four years ago so they brought me back so I could do better this time. The crowd was just enormous the last time I was here and I hope that happens again.

How many did you do the last time you were here?

I met 3,500 people so it was packed. They brought in 500 nuns. I remember saying that the nuns have voluntarily taken a vow of poverty, but since we read the same Bible, there's nowhere in the Bible that says Jesus was poor. The truth is He got gold, frankincense and myrrh. If you got that, you're started—you get $240 million for the gold, a thousand camels of gold. According to a research by the Peter Daniels' group in Australia, [Jesus] started out wealthy and He said do likewise. I wish someone could start me out with a thousand camels of gold. But I'm glad I've earned it. I wanna teach people to have pride of ownership. We can make this one of the greatest cultures—spiritually, mentally and financially.

In the Catholic religion, you can't mix making money with the spiritual side of the person. They always preach it's easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven. It's different in the Protestant religion, I guess, where work ethic and prosperity are encouraged. How would you reconcile that in our culture?

First of all, the literal meaning of that is in the old days, 2,000 years ago, the Church and the State were one. The camel had to literally get down on its knees. Ten percent of all the goods the camel was carrying were given back to the quasi church-state. But the Bible can be looked at in a contradictory way. The Psalms says, "My cup runneth over." Jesus in John 10:10 says, "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly." We have to be abundant spiritually, emotionally and financially. I promise you if you start to prosper well, the church will gladly accept your tithes. I've written a book called "The Miracle of Tithing." Businessmen look and say, "What's the miracle of *tee-thing*?" I say, "You haven't been *tee-thing* enough lately, have you?" Anyone who wants can go to my website—markvictorhansen.com—and we'll give you that book free because everybody that tithes starts to have more opportunities because it's the spiritual law… Now we're selling 75 million books. Our goal by 2020, our perfect 2020 vision, is to be the first to sell a billion books 'cause no one has ever done that. That's the concept then we write down the details. Same thing here. If you start out, say, let's figure out how to be poor, you can figure out how to be poor. And your culture has done that. I'm not coming as an ugly American saying I'm trying to judge you. All I'm saying is you've got such wonderful resources, such great thinking, such great family guys, let's just decide to prosper, going on a go-forward basis into the future—you have some of the best technicians in Internet, some of the best people working on wireless, some of the best doing broad band. The whole world wants to buy those resources and you've got them. And as you go into information technology, there's no limit. We're going in to the greatest growth decade in history. The other thing, I think, that your culture needs to do is become the tourist capital of all of Asia. You are the friendliest people… The beauty of tourism is it's a clean and interesting business. People come and they spend a lot of money. You're going and saying, "What have we got?" Just have friendly people and beautiful beaches and 7,100 islands, which I think are among the best places for diving in the whole planet. It's culture-rich in heritage, culture-rich with its many languages—you're one of the best-kept secrets in Asia.

It's an inexpensive place, too.

It's inexpensive and you manufacture so many great things. Last time I was here, I don't know if you're still doing it, but you were the world's capital in making socks. Did you know that? You make the socks for the whole world. People here don't even know you do it. And gloves. Good gloves. I bought some for my whole family when I was here.

We wanna change the whole world one story at a time. Everybody needs a story. The reason you need to hear stories like that or like "Chicken Soup" is because that helps you reinvent your story. If you'd ask me what I'd wanna do for the Philippines, I want you to reinvent your story. I want you to be happier than you are. I want you to tell more stories but I (also) want you to reinvent your story so that you'd make a bigger difference and impact, get to keep your families together and you don't have to go sell yourself to the rest of the Middle East or somewhere else. Again, I'm not doing this out of judgment. If that's what you gotta do to stay alive, you gotta do it to stay alive. But the goal is, [since] you all have been in survival, it's time to move up. It's time to prosper and make a significant difference and go to heights beyond what you've gone before. I'm here. I've got these keys. I teach four main principles: figure out what you want, put it into writing because that's the spiritual law—write a thing and make it clear; visualize it because if you can see it you can have it; and, No. 4, get together a team. If I were to say one thing, our culture and your culture make a great team. Once you put together a team you can have any dream. Jack and Mark are a team and we sell more books than anyone else. Bill Gates and Paul Alan and now Steve Barmer are a team and they do great things. In basketball, Michael Jordan… Do you guys watch basketball?

Do we? Yeah.

I just flip through your TV and you guys have as many channels as we have. I just want to see whether you're the crazy cable stuff that we are, too.

We're a basketball-crazy country. We follow the NBA.

So you know that Michael Jordan said I gotta have the coach, I gotta have this guy who paints his fingernails pink… (Chuckles) The point is, when you get a great team… That guy was the greatest rebounder in history. He can play with broken fingers. He can do anything.

You and Jack are the real partners. Every book gets a new third person or…

Not every book but a lot of books do. This ("Chicken Soup for the Teen Soul") happens to be Jack's sister. She knows more about teenagers than anyone in the planet. That book sold 12 million as a result. I've got two teenagers at home, 13- and 15-year-old daughters that I totally love and adore. If you and I are teenagers and we go to a movie, you come out and pick any movie you want and you go, "Wow!" You read one of the stories in here like "Sparky," about kid who never got above a D- in school. No girl wants go out with him. He is a senior in high school, always chosen last for sports. But he has one great talent. What Jack and I are teaching is everyone has one great talent at genius level. His (Sparky's) talent is artwork. He does these cartoons and sends them to Disney. He's sure they're gonna hire him—they don't hire him. He says, "That's it. I'll do a cartoon strip for losers." And that's the No. 1 most-read cartoon in the world, "Peanuts," by Charles Schulz. Isn't that nice? And the kid reads that and goes, (sniffles) "Oh my God, there's hope for me."

And it went for 50 years.

Yeah. Right before he died he wrote, "My wife, my kids and I have all decided that no one else will do the cartoon strip after me. It's been a great joy for my heart to do this for 50 years and now this will be the last one." He died that night. He was a nice man, too. We got to meet him at a book meeting. My God! He was a gentle spirit and couldn't be more loved. The work of his that I like the best is the little doghouse, with the dog sitting on top. It said, "Dear IRS, these are our tax reports. Please cancel my subscription." (Laughs)

How many books have you co-authored so far?

In just the "Chicken Soup" family we've had 37 No. 1 New York Times bestsellers in a row. No one has ever done that before. Jack and I have got 12 books together—the "Aladdin," "Parafocus," "Dare to Win" and on and on. We've been very prolific because what we're trying to do is the same thing that we're trying to ask your culture to do. You can start with zero. Jack and I started with zero. You start with the idea, with the concept, and then you say how far can you take it. We're not doing it for us. Every book we do is dedicated to a different charity. Like in the "Teen Soul." Do you guys have 800 numbers?

A few.

We have 800 numbers in our country and it's at the back of the books that are printed in America. (Scans the book) I don't think they'll be here because you've got different printing here. The books have 800 numbers and last year 1,200 kids that wanted to commit suicide called out the suicide hotline. Today it's so challenging to be a kid. The joke in America is extra-terrestrials take you at 13 and bring you back at 25. (Laughter)

We had two teenage suicides in the past two months.

I'm so sorry. It's unnecessary… and all the teenage violence. We have these terrible shootings in America. The bottom line is exactly why we do these storybooks. The kids are isolated. They go, "No one loves me," "My parents don't love me," "The school doesn't love me. What I'll do is get attention—I'll go blast somebody." We're saying, "Hey, look. If you read one of these books and it gets your soul and your heart…" What happens is I tell you a joke and you tell me a joke. But if I tell you a story that gets inside you, you'll tell me your story and (show) what your truth is. That's what we think is lacking in this world. The people aren't willing to tell their own truth. You may be very unusual parents 'cause your kids might talk to you about everything. Do they? No? What happens is, starting at 13, they go, "Mom's stupid. Dad's stupid." What we try to do is the opposite. We have the kids read stories to each other and we just get them to listen and, if they let us, we'll participate in the discussion. It makes the relationships stay. In the old days in America, when I was growing up in a farm, we used to rock. Somebody would be a great storyteller. My mother was a great storyteller, my uncle was a great storyteller. And everybody would listen and they'd laugh and roar. What Jack and I are saying based on what I said when I came here about too much television—the average American watches six to seven hours of TV every day—is to watch at least one hour less TV every day and read a book. One hour a day is 365 hours a year, that's two months a year to read something to improve yourself, to get better, to grow. If you're growing on the inside then your life grows on the outside. If you're growing on the inside then the culture, of the Philippines, will be better. And if you're growing on the inside then the Philippines will be unstoppable on the outside.

Is each book part of a seminar on the same theme? For example, did you do seminars for teenagers?

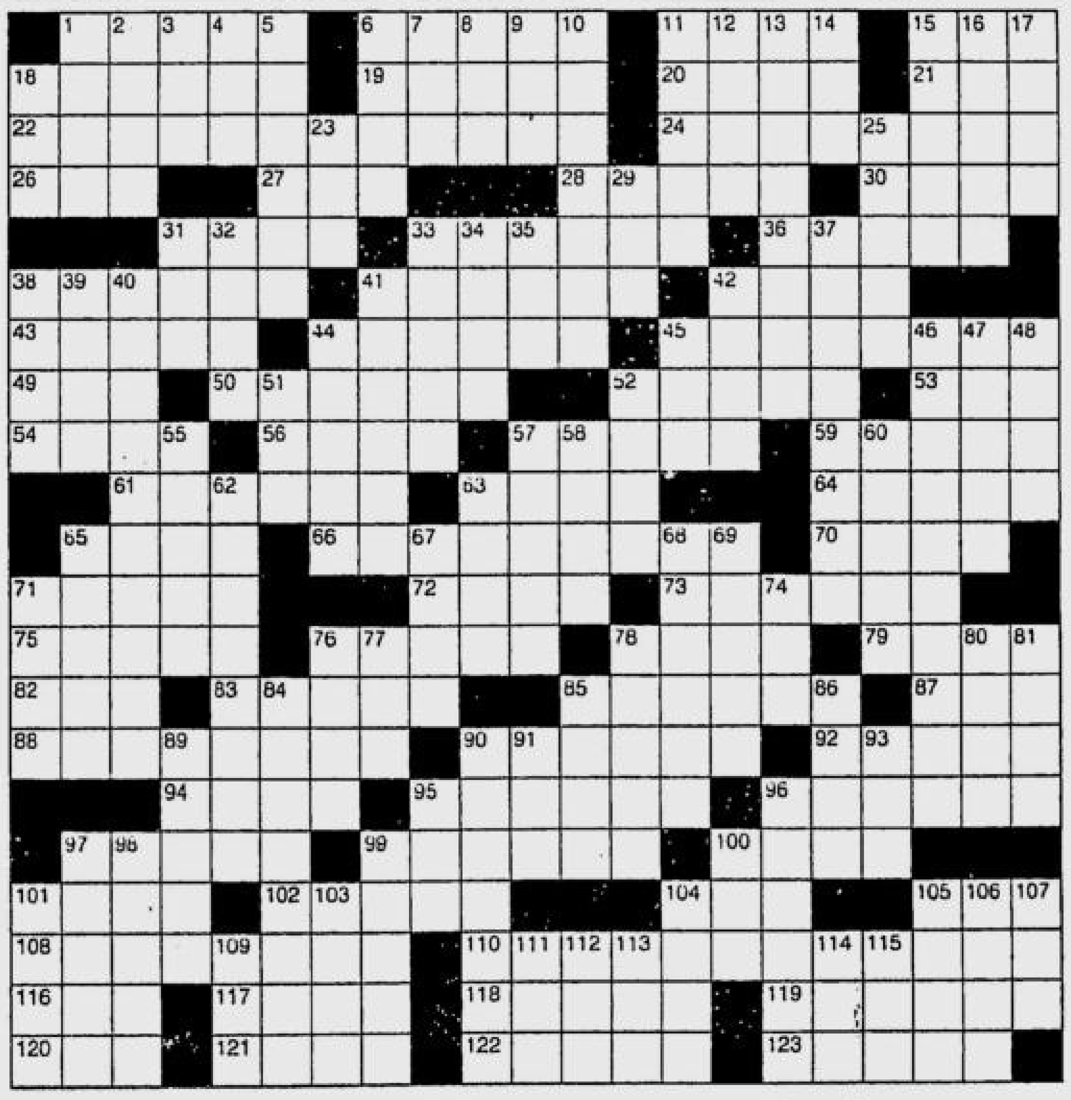
Yes, and we're doing them with some of the biggest teenage companies. Each one does some other stuff, too. Because of the teenage book, I got invited to talk to a college and three girls took me out and said, "We wouldn't have made it through college if it weren't for your book. Every night (Sniffles), we're in the dormitory and we read your books and we cry. Then we laugh and then we tell each other stories. So we decided to stay (in school)." The president of a university in Indiana said, "Only one in 10 goes to

CHICKEN/ p.G3

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

EVERYBODY'S IRISH



ACROSS

1 Auctioneer's item
6 Column style
11 Tiff
15 Wallace or Ayres
18 Revenue
19 Ann —, MI
20 Well-ventilated
21 Have bills
22 Irish mobster?
24 Irish singer?
26 Fluffy female
27 — contact
28 Frighten
30 Corduroy ridge
31 Sean of "Colors"
33 Covered thickly
36 In any way
38 Furnish
41 "The Dating Game" producer
42 Young follower?
43 "Rigoletto" composer
44 Adams' apparatus
45 Home wreckers?
49 "Make — double!"
50 Last name in fashion
52 Diva Leontyne
53 "— been had!"
54 Baseball's Bucky
56 Evangelist Roberts
57 Sag
59 Bottled spirits?
61 Box
63 Kind of carpet
64 Fit for a king
65 Easy stride
66 Irish explorer?
70 "East of Eden" character
71 Dancer Gregory
72 They may be wild
73 Porthos' pal
75 Turn inside out
76 Cremona craftsman
78 Clarinetist Artie
79 School founded in 1440
82 Always, to Auden
83 Less available
85 Bartlett bits
87 Space —
88 Ally Walker series
90 Country gentleman
92 — cotta
94 Bruins' sch.
95 Compare
96 Castle feature
97 Greek island
99 Celtic cultists
100 Sociable starling
101 Bluenose
102 Actress Davis
104 Rainbow shape
105 Scholastic abbr.
108 Irish composer?
110 Irish boxer?
116 Infamous Amin
117 Chip off Woody's block
118 Carve a canyon
119 Ill-tempered
120 Rock's — Zeppelin
121 AMEX rival
122 Impressionist painter
123 Elbow

DOWN

1 Tackle a bone
2 Lot size
3 Cubic meas.
4 Philips of "UHF"
5 Saga
6 Knight's wife
7 Planet, for one
8 McGwire stat
9 Noun suffix
10 Balkan area
11 Bar food?
12 Wharf
13 Like potpourri
14 Cobb and Hardin
15 True-blue
16 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
17 "You — on My Mind" ('65 hit)
18 Complete the cake
23 Writer Rand
25 Oscar or Tony
29 Meyerbeer's "— Huguenots"
31 Seal school
32 Author Ambler
33 Sahara sight
34 Turgenev's birthplace
35 O'Hare info
37 Wire
38 Fired up
39 Jubilee
40 Irish actor?
41 Bite for Bonzo
42 Freighter or ferry
44 Pool shot
45 — -Magnon
46 Irish musician?
47 European health resort
48 — Patrick Harris
51 Torrid
52 Kelly's possum
55 Candle
57 Delhi wrap
58 Shoots the breeze
60 A la King?
62 Curb
63 "Git, Garfield!"
65 Bile producer
67 Circus sound
68 City in Pakistan
69 Talk really big
71 Dickens villain
74 Veneration
76 — code
77 Sea, to Seurat
78 Decks have four
80 Grimm creature
81 Tidy
84 Extended metaphor
85 College courtyard
86 Amaze
89 Tierra del —
90 Multiplied 2 X 2
91 On the — vive
93 Significant years
95 Directional suffix
96 Industrialist
97 — oil
98 Unbending
99 Crusoe's creator
100 "The A-Team" actor
101 Skier Mahre
103 Architectural features
104 Aphrodite's lover
105 Evigan or Gumbel
106 Unwind a rind
107 Some
109 Ashen
111 Northwestern st.
112 Marsh
113 Author LeShan
114 Joanne of "Red River"
115 Sturm — Drang

ANSWER ON PAGE G7

Chicken soup for the Pinoy soul

(From page G2)

college and matriculates and (does not) graduate for 10 years." So I said, "Holy cow!" So we did "Chicken Soup for the College Soul" and sold three million of them right away. We're trying to get everyone into college. I'm told that your country is being compared now to Singapore. In the last 30 years, senior minister Mr. Lee has (changed the situation in Singapore) from having people with almost no education to (practically) everybody getting an education. And from having no experience in international travel to every kid going on (a foreign trip) before they graduate from high school. I understand that this is not a dictatorship [Philippines] but I would love to see that happen here. Every kid gets to go somewhere, just like I want my daughters to. They've got to (travel outside the country). I don't care where they go. But they gotta go study somewhere for one year outside the United States so they'd understand we have a world that has to learn to live together by living together, to start expecting the unexpected and to understand different cultures. You've got great Catholicism, Protestantism, Moslemism and lots of isms available.

How do you select the writers for your books?

We do a call for the stories. Everybody's got a story that is so touching, heart-penetrating. We did a little note and, at first, we got a trickle of stories. Now we get up to 500 stories a day. We read every one of them. We grade them. One of the things we wanna do is "Chicken Soup for the Filipino Soul."

You'll get Filipino writers to do it?

Yeah. We want Filipino writers.

Not writers but people who have lived it.

Ordinary people. Some are gonna be extraordinary and have great stories 'cause you can't have hero without tragedy.

This book will be the first of its kind. if ever? You haven't done books for other nationalities?

Yeah. We haven't done that. But my partner and I have talked about (my) coming here and we said we ought to do it 'cause you're one of the great cultures. To the world you're invisible except—forgive me, I'm not trying to do this as a negative bias—for Imelda Marcos, that she had 6,000 pairs of shoes, got 3,000 pairs of underwear. Our press calculated that she couldn't use all the underwear she owned during her lifetime. (Laughs) The point is you have a lot of greatness in your 7,000-plus islands and your people.

We have kind of a takeoff from the "Chicken Soup" series called "Coincidence or Miracle."

Send one by the hotel and I'll read it. And if we could use (any of) those stories we'll gladly buy it. You see, this is what happens: When people read stories about the Philippines, they would come to the Philippines. That's what Jack and I want. Because if I don't know you then I have to be afraid—I'm uncertain about you. I don't know if I can trust you. But if you come here, I think you have the warmest, the most genuine, the most authentic and the friendliest people in all of Asia. And hardworking, too.

You select from so many stories and you classify them?

We rate the stories on a scale of one to 10 where 10 is the highest. Some of these stories are so good they just rip out your heart and stop it, and then we put a 10 ++. We take like a thousand stories to find a couple of good ones. Like that book, we read 12,000 stories to find 200+.

You personally go through each one of them?

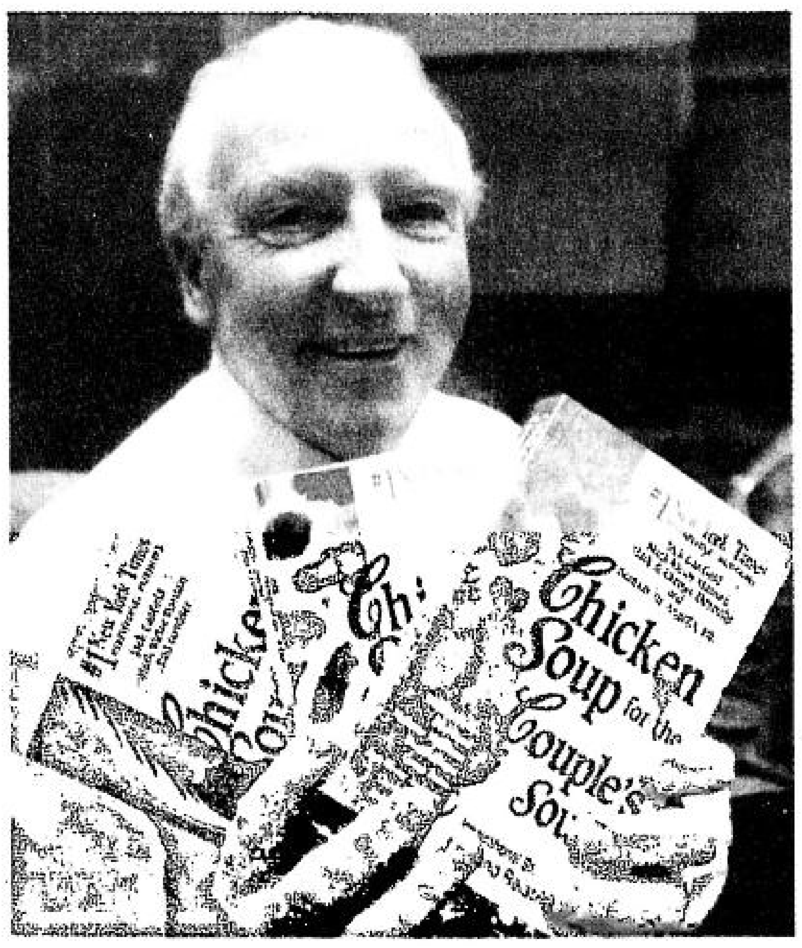
Yes, Jack and I read them. We got a few other people who read them and sort them out. They prescreen it and we do the final.

Do you also do some editing?

Every one of those stories has been edited by Jack and I about seven times each. We think we make them perfect, and based on the sales I think that's sort of true. With this book we have all the kids in the Internet read it with us and they all screen it: "I don't like this paragraph," "I don't like that line." And we interviewed, before we did our books, the 101 best-selling authors in the world and we took all their ideas. Dr. Kim Blanchard, the guy with "One-Minute Manager" and all that, said, "Feedbacks are breakfast champions. Fail behind the scenes, not in front." You don't wanna go out in the market and fail 'cause most books have been read by the author, editor and maybe a spouse and that's it. But we have at least 100 readers, in this case, 12,000 teenagers who read that book. And they know every one of the stories, and they talk about them. That's why you're carrying it 'cause your teen says, "If you're gonna go meet that guy get this signed." We think everybody's got a book in him or her.

Why are you selecting Filipinos?

Do you know that you are the No. 1 reading culture in all of Asia? You read more books per capita than anyone else in Asia. You buy more books than any other culture in Asia.



When are you coming out with 'Chicken Soup for the Politician's Soul'?

We didn't think politicians have souls (Laughter)

But Lee Kwan Yew said we're uneducated.

He said you're uneducated?

Yes, because he was criticizing the People Power II, the way we got rid of our president.

That's because he's a dictator. Benevolent, but he's a dictator.

I believe you're not touring Singapore any time soon. (Laughter)

I like Singapore. I have been there. I have not met senior Mr. Lee. I read his book when I was there, though. He makes sure everybody knows English, Chinese and Japanese 'cause he said, "Here are the three role languages you gotta have (if you're gonna be operative in a go-forward basis.)" His joke is: "What do you call somebody who only speaks one language—an American." I'm sorry but he besmirched your culture.

Let's go back to why you have chosen the Philippines. Filipinos are considered nonreaders because we rely more on oral tradition. We generally don't like to read.

That's why our books fit you so well because our stories are always three pages or less. We have a cartoon every seven pages. They catch your heart very quickly.

None of your books has been translated?

They translated it in 39 languages.

Which came first, the "Aladdin" or "Chicken Soup"?

They were pretty much simultaneous. We went to New York and 33 publishers kicked us out. And then our agents signed us a note.

They must be kicking themselves now.

Yeah. (Chuckles) I just went back and sold a new book. I am doing a new book with Bob Alan, who's the biggest money writer in America. I wanna teach everyone there's more than enough money for everyone around the world. There's no shortage...What we're gonna do is think through again how we're doing all that stuff and that's what we're doing in the seminars—getting people to think anew, to figure out how to do it. It's great to have oral tradition. The history of 6,000 years is basically oral tradition. It's only in the last couple of hundred years that we wrote it 'cause of Guttenberg. I just heard this from my friend Art Linkletter. Are his shows on here? Yes? Guttenberg press has 500 years to go. He said, "It took a hundred years to get it going 'cause there was no ink, no presses and there was nobody that was taught how to read except the old Catholic monks." I had no idea. That's why we wanna do the Philippines because... I know you have the oral tradition but numerically/ statistically speaking, you buy more books than anyone else.

We have a high literacy rate. I think it's 88 percent, something like that.

And everybody here speaks English 'cause that's the language of business, right? Second Spanish?

Second is Filipino. We've done away with Spanish.

Is Filipino read by all the islands?

Yes. It is taught in school. How do you decide which series to go into, like "Chicken Soup for the Writer's Soul," "Chicken Soup for the Golfer's Soul"?

In marketing you do what's called horizontal marketing. Like McDonald's, McDonald's, McDonald's... 20,000 McDonald's and it's all the same. Then there's vertical marketing where you take over a different market, like we did "Chicken Soup for the Women's Soul," "Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul." Do you have Mother's Day here? Yeah, I mean, how can you not have in a Catholic country? We've been three years in a row No. 1 with that book and this year we're coming out with "Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul II."

Your sales rise around Mother's Day?

They skyrocket. We own the market. There's no competition. We said we wanna do it. Then we said we want the fathers' market. Where will the fathers' market be the biggest? So we did "Chicken Soup for the Golfer's Soul." We always partner with a magazine. We partnered with Golf Digest and we sold 3.5 million in three months' time. This was crazy. Now we came up with "Chicken Soup for the Sportsman's Soul," and this Father's Day we came up with "Chicken Soup for the Father's Soul."

Who was you magazine partner for "Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul"?

Woman's Day magazine, which is read by four million women a week. There's one of our stories in every issue.

Do you have a personal favorite?

(In) every one of my books I've got a personal favorite. There are so many cute little stories. The biggest scion in TV in America is a guy named Vin di Bona. He does "America's Funniest Home Videos." It has 30 million viewers on Sunday nights. Just as we test every story, he videotapes the whole audience, cuts it into four frames—one is a thousand people, one is a woman, one is a man and one is a kid. And if all four are not doing the right thing to a response, then he doesn't use that bit. We go to see him for two hours and we said we ought to do this show and he said, "Hard copy sells." His partners are there for two hours and do what we should have been doing, which is stories. His partners said, "Last night, my wife came home with a book called 'Chicken Soup for the Soul.' She didn't know we're having this meeting. She's a teacher. She read me this one story about a little old man in a country bus that bounced up and down, and he's carrying two dozen red roses. Across the aisle is a girl who's as pretty as she can be. She kept looking at the flowers. Inwardly she was saying, 'Someday will a man love me enough to give me flowers like that?' When the old man gets up to get off the bus, he lays the flowers in the girl's lap and said, 'I gonna give them to my wife. But I think she'd like you to have

CHICKEN/ p.G4

MAGANDANG BALITA
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Chicken soup for the Pinoy soul

(From page G3)

them.' The little girl starts crying. The old man gets off the bus, and as the bus takes off she watches as he walks into the cemetery." Then Di Bona said (Sniffles), "I like that. I think we can do this." It took us a while but now we have the No. 1 show on TV called "Chicken Soup for the Soul." We've had every major actor, from Rod Steiger to Bette Midler. It works... In America, when you are studying English [that's actually literature], they always start with "Great Expectations." I'm not saying it's not the greatest book ever, but it's a hard book to read. It's 387 pages and Dickens is tough. It's negative, too. Schools are now trying to take over our book 'cause they're three pages. Somebody who's not a fast reader, a beginning reader or dyslexic, they can get into our stuff and read it fast. We wanna have 100 percent literacy. We think with little stories you can get it. No one's ever tried it to do it before.

What channel carries "Chicken Soup" in the US?

We're at PAKS TV. We're going to ABC every week, starting this fall.

Is it a weekly?

Yes, it's one hour on primetime. We do four 15-minute segments.

Is there a different host every time?

We started out with one host, Michael Tucker, and now we're gonna go to a lot of different hosts. We're gonna have different hosts each time.

Is it a reenactment of each story?

Yeah. A dramatization and it gets you. Oh man! They're good.

If you ask everyone they'd have a favorite story.

Everyone has a favorite story. Like at the little lunch we just had, a lady came up to me at the end and said, "Till this lunch I was contemplating suicide." A story can really get inside your heart and it does save you, and we all need more stories. Your life, your whole head is a story. Part of your story and my story was we're all gonna come to this meeting. If your story is "I'm divorced," "I had a car accident," "I almost got kicked out" or "I just lost my job," that's a bad story. If you got a story that's "I've got hope," "I'm gonna get an education," "My kids are gonna make it" or "My husband loves me," that's a good story.

How do you verify your stories? Do you ever ask yourself, "Is this story for real"?

I agree. Oh man, I've got stories that are even harder. There was one I was rereading last night on my flight here from "Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul." First of all we call the person assuming she/he is still alive. We figure out ways to find people that you won't believe 'cause we got sued by a couple of people for anonymous stories. They're anonymous until you start to make a lot of money, then all of sudden they'll say give me part of the money. Jack and I jokingly say we wanna do a book called "Anonymous," and we'll find out where everyone is.

Do you pay each contributor?

Yeah, $300 unless you're a famous author. They get a little bit more.

They don't peg their prices? It's up to you?

Yeah, pretty much. The opposite happens though. Somebody who's an unknown author that gets in our book (becomes known)... We got hundreds of letters, which we talk about in "Chicken Soup for the Writer's Soul," about how we've helped people become authors because they go in and say, "This is my story in 'Chicken Soup' and I've written this whole book. Will you take me and publish me?' ," And we publish them and they'd go on to succeed. I really believe we need more literature... Your culture is just ready to explode. The question is do we need political leadership or individual leadership. Obviously, out of a cultural bias for America, it's the individual because you either have bureaucracy or you have free enterprise. You got the essential political freedom. You guys have pretty screwed up political freedom, I got to admit.

We learned from you guys.

I know, I know. (Laughs) But we never taught you that Marcos ripped off all that money and his daughter shows up on the front page of the paper today. Was it your paper I was reading that they just found out Irene...?

Yeah.

How much did she...?

$13.2 billion.

Serious! According to the article, which is "to be continued," which is really smart, you guys are gonna get that money back. Who gets to vote on what to do with it? Because if you put that toward education this place can explode.

Where do you draw the line in selecting stories?

We have a zone. It's gotta be one of seven things. It's gotta cause you to have a happy tear, to choke up, to touch your heart that you literally feel your heart open up, to make you weak in the knees, to change your perception, to 'cause a visceral reaction so you can feel it, you get those chills.

It's always a feel-good story.

Yeah, basically. We're not gonna do any violence.

We have tons of stories like that. If you watch Filipino television all the stories are like that.

Jack has been in the Philippines a couple of times and that's why we're convinced this is the right culture to do it first.

Do you have a timetable for that project?

Well, as fast as we can get the stories then we'll do the book. Send it to chickensoup.com. It's in front of each one of the books.

What about those who don't have computers?

If they don't have any computer they can send it to me at Newport Beach.

You reread your books.

Oh yeah. And I highlight them, too. When you got 37,000 stories you can't have all of them memorized.

And you have to know each one, of course.

Yeah, but I don't have them memorized to tell every one of them anymore. Oh, this is so good. (Flips through the pages) "Children speak to God," it says, "Dear God, in school they told us what You do. Who does it when You're on vacation?" "Dear God, is it true my father won't get to heaven if he uses bawling words in the house?" (Chuckles) "Dear God, who draws the lines around the countries?" This is the one you asked about—how do you know if it's real:

"So all of us were standing around the nurses' station in the surgical intensive care unit, where we worked and asked the question, 'Have you ever felt someone else was in the room when there is no one else but you that you could see?' "

I already got goose bumps, and to me that means the truth.

"Another smiled and said, 'Or smelled perfume in the room of a patient who is dying when no one else has been in there.' Or another, 'Or pass somebody in the hallway, turned around and there was no one there but you?'

"We all looked at each other and laughed, and I thought I was the only one. Explanations were offered: 'Maybe it was because we had to spend too much time around people who were struggling at the threshold between life and death or, maybe it was just stress.'

" 'I think it's real,' one of the nurses said severely, 'and has something to do with the kind of love that doesn't end when life does.' She went on to tell the story. A man in his early 20s was admitted in the intensive care unit after a large piece of machinery at work had crushed his foot. He needed immediate surgery. She quickly prepared him for the operating room. She had just started to go through the preoperative procedures when an anxious woman entered the ICU asking about the young man.

" 'Is he all right?' the woman asked. 'He is stable and sleeping quietly.' The nurse responded.

" 'Is he in pain?' the woman cried.

" 'No,' the nurse reassured, 'they gave him some very strong medication in the emergency room when he first arrived.'

" 'Is he gonna be okay?' the woman asked, her face still creased with worry.

" 'He's young and healthy and should recover wonderfully after the surgery,' the nurse reassured her.

"The woman looked somewhat relieved but asked to see him. 'I'm his mother,' she explained."

Do you get goose bumps? Do you know where it's gonna go? Where is it gonna go?

His mother had already died.

You got it right.

"The nurse gave the woman a sympathetic look, 'I understand your anxiety but I have to prepare him for surgery. If you'd give me five minutes I promise you I'd be right back out of the operating room.'

" 'But is he all right?' the mother repeated, 'Is he gonna be all right?'

" 'He's gonna require a lot of physical therapy and it looks like real hard work, but I'm sure he'll do just great.'

"Relief filled the woman's face, 'Thank you so much for taking good care of my son,' she said. 'I'll wait outside.'

"When the nurse had finished her duty, she walked out to the waiting room to get to the mother. No one was there. She checked the bathrooms and the vending machines, but still no sign of a woman who had been so anxious to see her son. The nurse was about to have the woman paged when a group of the man's coworkers walked in and asked about their friend.

" 'You can go in and see him in just a few minutes,' the nurse replied, 'I have to find his mother.'

" 'Ma'am, he doesn't have a mother,' one of the men said, looking at her strangely.

" 'But a woman was here. She said she was his mother. I just talked to her,' the nurse insisted.

" 'You don't understand,' another coworker said, 'his mother died a few years ago. All he's got is a cousin. We called him and told him and he said he'd be here pretty quick.'

"The nurse was baffled and went back to her work. A little while later, while the young man was in surgery, his cousin arrived and asked about him. The nurse updated him and then turned to leave and she called, 'By the way, a woman came by and asked about him. She said she was his mother.' The cousin stood motionless a moment.

" 'What did the woman look like?' he finally asked. And the nurse described the lady in detail. He slowly shook his head and smiled in disbelief and wondered. 'Thank you,' was all he said and left.

'If you'd ask me what I'd wanna do for the Philippines, I want you to reinvent your story, so that you'd make a bigger difference and impact, get to keep your families together and you don't have to go sell yourself to the rest of the Middle East or somewhere else'

"When the nurse asked her coworkers later about the woman who had come in to the ICU, no one remembered seeing her at all. She never showed up again.

"For a minute all were silent, reflecting on the nurse's story. Was it possible? Who can really say? All I know from this experience is, as a nurse, I no longer doubt that love goes on beyond death or that mother looks out for her children as long as she lives, and even longer."

I don't know if that's apocryphal or not. This woman wrote it and we verified it with her. We're doing "Chicken Soup for the Nursing Soul" now. We have a story called, "Hey nurse!," where this beautiful woman is walking by and a guy in the bed is going, "Hey nurse! Hey nurse!"

"She said, 'You talking to me?'

"He said, 'Yeah. Judy, come back here, please.'

"She looks down and there's no nametag. 'How did you know my name is Judy?'

" 'Well, when I came here before you saved my life.'

" 'What do you mean? I work upstairs.'

" 'That's right. I was in intensive care. And you tried to jump-start me seven times with those little paddles. I was out of my body. That day you were wearing a ponytail.'

"Then she runs her hands through her hair and her hair is down to her neck and said, 'Holy cow!'

"He said, 'I didn't look like I do right now, but you saved my life and hey, nurse, I just want to tell you thank you.' "

Ain't that good? But nurses get beat up all the time. I gotta assume your medical program is as stupid as ours.

We have exported lots of Filipino nurses.

I know and we thank you for them. One of them worked on my little daughter when she got sick so I'm really thankful. That's why I said you have the most gracious spirit of hospitality and love on the planet.

Have there been stories where you checked and they turned out to be not true?

Yeah, and we won't use 'em. We kill the story.

How many rejections do you have?

We get a lot of rejections and I have people who come out to me and say, (Sobs) "You didn't use my story." And I go, "Yeah, yeah." We'd love to use everybody's story but we do the best we can to rewrite it if we can. If Jack and I can figure out how to rewrite it... Sometimes we'll take something that's 10 pages and we can get it down to two or three pages.

The rule is to always keep it short.

It's gotta be short because today people only got time for bite-size stuff and we're working with Harvard University right now to make the two-minute story a story on every subject. Our mission is we wanna change the whole world one story at a time.

Have there been cases when writers complain you mishandled their story, like it's beyond recognition? How do you handle them?

(Laughs) With kid gloves. (Laughter)

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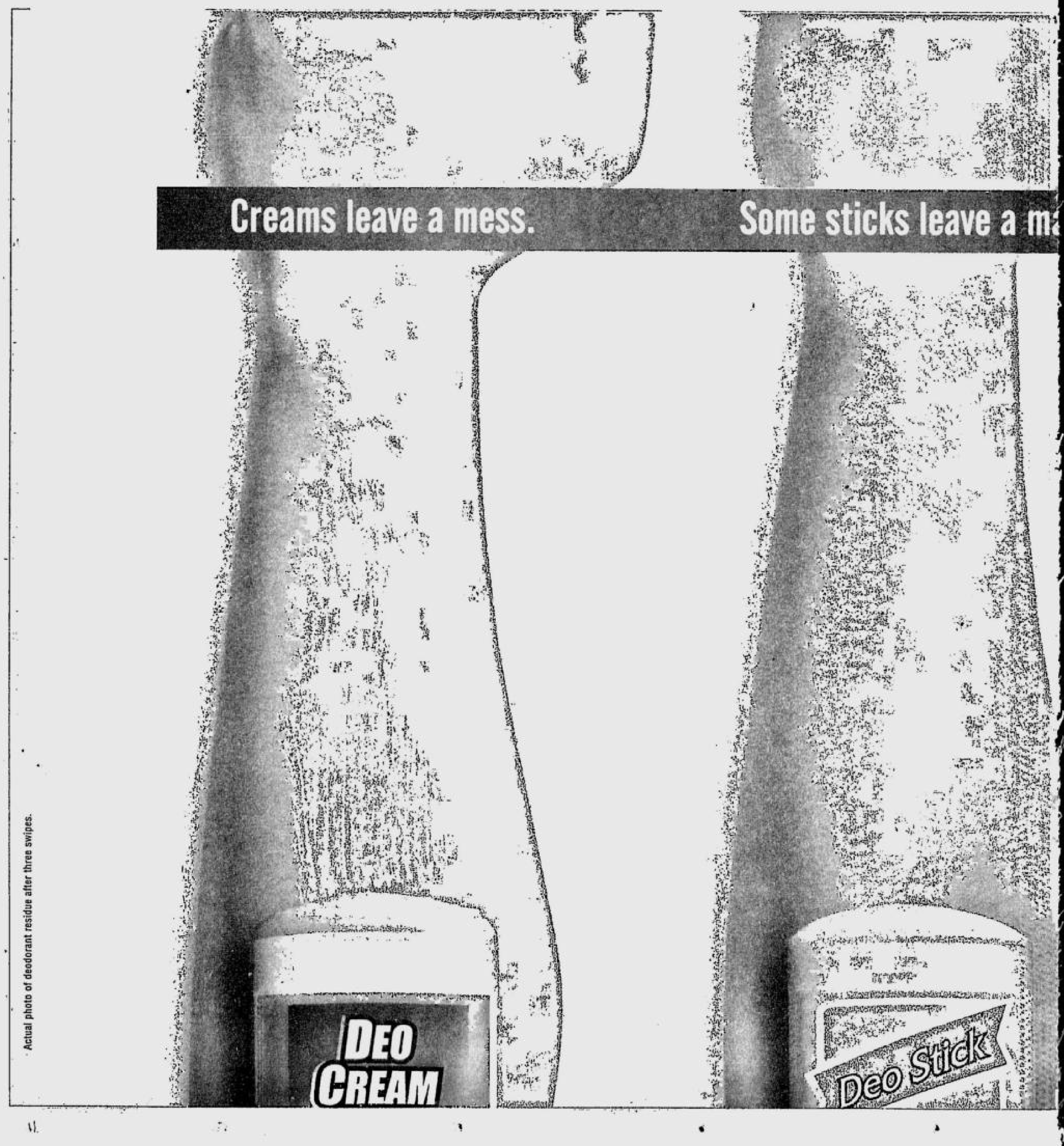

Chicken soup for the Pinoy soul

(From page G4)

Where do you draw the line in selecting stories? We have a zone. It's gotta be one of seven things. It's gotta cause you to have a happy tear, to choke up, to touch your heart that you literally feel your heart open up, to make you weak in the knees, to change your perception, to cause a visceral reaction so you can feel it, you get those chills

But there are?

Yeah, bút not very many. I gotta say that most people, and that includes Tom Clancy... Everybody like Clive Custler and Tom Clancy, all of them, said we do a great job editing by and large. The only ones that are real tough about it are the ones that have never been published and don't understand. Editing makes you better, not worse. I'm a fan of Ernest Hemmingway and he said, "The easy job is writing. The hard job is editing."

We all need editors. Sometimes it's a painful job to edit. Jack won't edit his own friends so he gives it to me and I do the final edit. I will not edit my own wife. She's a great writer. I said, "Jack, you edit Pat because I don't need to fight it at home. It's okay with me."

Between the time you choose the stories that are to be included in that book and the time that it comes off the press...

Six months. Then we go on a book tour. Jack and I are personally promising to do the whole world. Like we're No. 1 in Japan and India. Jack was just in India and he did like six cities, and he had like 15,000 people in each one.

Our books are gift books. So when somebody reads it she/he passes it along to about five. In India, our books are passed along to about 12. It's amazing. This year I gotta go to Brazil and Latin America. I've never been to Latin America. I've been all over Europe and did the European tour.

Not even Mexico?

I've been to Mexico a lot. I've been everywhere in Mexico because it's a neighboring country. By Latin America I mean Brazil, Argentina, Chile. They wanted us for a long time. We've done really well in Europe.

When do you get time to spend with your family?

Jack and I wrote a book called "Parafocus". This is gonna confront you the first time you hear it. We believe there are three kinds of days. There are workdays, which you all are masterful at, where you spend 80 percent of your time making money. There are days that clean up your messes. All of us have messes and most of us do work, work, work and then never clean up our messes. A mess for me at home is: my wife took away my home office and she made it into another bedroom for guest 'cause we have so much company. So all the stuff that comes for me goes into my closet, and it makes my closet a mess. I can guarantee when I come back it takes me a day just to dig out all the stuff. You can have financial messes, marital messes, spiritual messes, garage messes. The most important day we discovered when we researched with Dan Sullivan, the strategic coach in Toronto, Canada, is free day. Free day is one that is hardest for us to work out because we all need balance. But a free day is 24 hours, midnight to midnight, no work, no writing, no thinking, no answering the phone about business from your boss. And then you come back and feel good again. The 10 Commandments say work six take one off. All of us have either a lot or little stress. When you have a lot of stress you need a day off. Go putter in the garden, put your feet in the water on the beach, climb a mountain. Go do whatever your avocation, not your vocation, is. For me, it's skiing with my daughters.

You stay for one week with your family and Jack never calls.

Yeah. He just leaves a message on the answering machine so if it's something important he can get through to me. So we come back fresh.

Do you take the same week off?

Sometimes it's the same, but most of the time it's different.

Aside from skiing with your kids, what else do you like to do?

I travel a lot. I cook. I garden. We have a second place in Hawaii. I'm really good at scuba diving. I've 10 macro goals. One of them is to save the ocean. Artist Wyland is the greatest marine artist in sculpture. He's a Michelangelo of the sea. He paints whales on walls around the world. We're gonna have two giant kissing dolphins. He's doing a book called "Chicken Soup for the Ocean Lover's Soul" and all the money from that book is gonna save the ocean. Here are the politicians worried about themselves and about their own money. Look, 34 percent of the creatures in the ocean are dying. Swordfish are dying. We're gonna do what we call ocean ranching, giant cage fishing to save the ocean... We're gonna save the whole ocean and make it live.

When are you coming out with "Chicken Soup for the Politician's Soul"?

We didn't think politicians have souls. (Laughter) Politicians need a good book. Doug Weed, who is a speechwriter and consultant, has asked us to do that book. It's under consideration right now.

How did you get the stories of the likes of George Burns? Did you solicit or did they contribute their stories?

We solicited them, I suspect. Or we found their story and then went back to their manager... I met George Burns a couple of times. I love that guy. They said, "Why don't you take women your own age?" He said, "There aren't any." (Laughter) They said, "How do you live to be a hundred?" He said, "If I'm booked. If I've got somewhere to go and something to do." He said, "I'm too old I don't even buy green bananas." They said, "What did your doctors say when you said you have 10 cigars and three martinis every day?" He said, "Oh, he died a decade ago." (Laughter) The truth is he exercised every day and did not really puff on those cigars. It was just for show. This one is by George Burns and him and his babies.

Do you make sure each book have a few celebrities?

Yeah, we have at least four major celebrities in each book.

Do you consider famous writers celebrities? Or are they in a different league?

There are some famous writers that are celebrities, yes.

How many times a millionaire are you?

Since I preached that you ought to be a multimillionaire? There are some problems with the question as you get richer. We have a trademark here that if Reader's Digest wants to buy us right now, they gotta pay a quarter billion dollars for the trademark of "Chicken Soup for the Soul." Just for the trademark. They're gonna buy it from us. But we're not ready to sell. We're not done using it 'cause we're doing all those cool stuff. The bank would say that's not an asset, that the trademark is not an asset. What I teach is how to have intellectual property assets. So I would say I'm worth half of that—$125 million. But in terms of hard assets $5, $10 to $12 million. But in terms of intellectual property assets I'm probably worth a billion dollars. Tomorrow night, at dinner, I've got a meeting with your head of commerce. That's the direction your culture's got to go. The great, big future for you is intellectual capital. I'd like to come here and teach people who wanna learn how to do that because that's where the future is. That's where wealth is unlimited. Everyone's born rich. Everyone is born of 18 billion brain cells. When you make a decision in consciousness, the subconscious makes provisions. You all made the decision to interview me today and I made the decision, "Yeah, I wanted to be interviewed." There's some stuff like the "Wizard of Oz" as intellectual property. That guy had the same attorney as I.

He's dead now. But just in masks for Halloween, that guy makes $100 million a year in the US. He has been dead for 50 years. So this book will keep on selling after I'm dead or, at least, we think it will. (Laughter) If you guys do enough good stories it will. (Laughs)

We always do a good story.

Yes, you do. Let me just do one part from George Burns 'cause he's so funny. He's telling the truth about the fact that he and Gracie adopted this little boy. "Everybody says all little boys are beautiful..I'm telling the truth. I have to admit that Ronnie was an ugly baby. All babies look like Winston Churchill. Ronnie made Winston Churchill look handsome. Ronnie looked like a wrinkled little man with a funny-shaped head." (Laughter) The last line, as he balances it out, goes, "Gracie fussed all over Ronnie as I worked on the script. Ronnie was a smart kid. Once he figured out how to grow, he didn't stop until he was 6'2" and nowadays he's much better looking than Winston Churchill. Gracie had been right all along." Ain't that nice?

What's your religion?

I go to a couple different churches. One of the churches you might know here is on TV, "The Hour of Power" by Bob Schuller. He and I are good friends. We have the eternal flame for the Unknown Soldier, the flame for peace, for the Olympics, but no one's ever done God's eternal flames. I come up with ideas. I'm writing a new book called "Idea Tithing." We all know how to do financial tithing. You're supposed to give 10 percent back to God through the church temple or synagogue you go to. Then there's volunteer tithing where you give time back. But no one's ever talked about idea tithing. What I wanna do is come up with ideas that really serve somebody. I gave Schuller this great idea and we'll meet one more time and then we'll finalize. But we're gonna do God's eternal flame. There would be a flame to God, then there would be a topiary behind it. Schuller will do little candles and little slogans. Everybody who comes to this crystal cathedral, which is like a giant glass house, will get a slogan on the candle and pay $2 to light it. His church is almost as pretty as the Vatican, which I've been to a couple of times. This summer we took the kids to Italy and we showed them all the great pictures of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci. We read them a book so they'd get to understand how the Catholic Church fought over having the best art in the world.

Do you read to your kids a lot?

Oh yeah, we read aloud and they still have to tell stories of their own. They get to suffer dad's stories a lot. (Laughter) They gotta tell stories. They gotta make up their own stories.

Did they ever say, "Oh no, not again"?

They haven't. Their friends come over and want the stories, too. It's not just in the Philippines or in America, but people are desperate. They're hungry for stories that have intrinsic meanings that will take them somewhere. That's why I'm saying I wanna do with you all "Chicken Soup for the Filipino Soul" because you all have a great soul, a great ethic and you're predominantly invisible. You're one of the best-keep secrets in the planet. I bet if you asked most countries they wouldn't be able to show where you are on the map. That's too bad.

What did the critics say about your stories?

That we're too nicey-nice and we're not real.

So you get your share of criticisms.

Oh yeah.

What do they mean they're not real?

'Cause every story shouldn't have a happy ending.

It lacks angst?

Yeah, but I think a lot of our stories have a lot of angst. The critics read one or two stories and then they'd decide to go for the jugular. And that's okay. Yesterday a big critic said, "These guys have done every book. There's only one left. They're gonna do 'Chicken Soup for the Prostitutes'." So I thought, "What an idea!" (Laughter) Actually the next book is called "Chicken Soup for the One-Eyed Alcoholic Prisoner Who Hasn't Got Feet." (Laughter)

It's so segmented already.

Yeah, but we got some giant books coming. Like this year we got "Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul," which is for the military. That's gonna be big. And the No. 1 leisure activity in America is gardening and that's gonna be our biggest book ever, "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul."

You also have a cookbook.

Yeah.

In your own words, how come your book transcends different cultures?

When Jack and I did it, we wrote a bunch of criteria to choose our stories. One of them was we wouldn't do a story that wasn't universal. We do that with "Chicken Soup for the Soul" and I would be telling them some great Catholic stories that we have in there, but the story has to be universal. It will go through every culture. When I got to China, the head of Buddhism had a letter for me that said, "Dear Dr. Hansen, I would like you to spend a day with me." And I got to spend a day with the head of Buddhism. She and I told stories all day long, like "I wanna reforest the planet with 18 billion trees." You gotta make sure you save the old growth, which is the opposite of what George Bush wants to do. I will try to get an audience with the President to make sure he doesn't cut down our beautiful redwood trees. I know you won't believe 'em but the (trees') bases are 4,000-6,000 years old.

When you did "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul," were other religions offended?

We're doing "Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul" right now. We wanted to do a "Chicken Soup for the Catholic Soul" but Pope John Paul II hasn't met with me. I'm eager to meet with him.

How about for atheist?

Here's a question for atheists. When they have great sex who are they thankful to? (Shouts) "Oh God!" (Laughter) According to the statistics, only one percent of the people are atheists. So I'll sell to the 99 percent, to the masses and even classes. I haven't really had an atheist come to us and argue with Jack and I. I'd gladly have that discussion.

There's a deliberate move to ease out stories espousing a particular religion...

No, no. We're spiritual, not religious. We're universal. We're not telling you that you gotta be a Christian or a Catholic.

When did the idea of "Chicken Soup" start?

In 1990. It took us three years to do our first book. It came out on my wife's birthday, June 28, 1993.

Did you plan that, having a series?

Because I'm the visionary of the two of us—I'm the macro thinker and Jack is the micro thinker. Both are equally needed. I do the big thing, he does the little thing. "Let's have a best-selling series." The answer was yes, we wanted to do that. We did it by strategy and by design. We still got it. For the next 20 years that's what we're gonna do.

Are you done with the fourth? It was "Chicken Soup" then "Second Serving" then "Third."

The number books are done. Now it will be all these specific books.

How many servings are there for the number books?

Six. Since there are 38, that will be 32 different books like "Chicken Soup for the Working Soul," "Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul." And they sell well.

Which is the bestseller?

The original, which sold 15 million copies.

Of the specialized one, what is the bestseller?

"Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul." Once a teenager starts reading it and falls in love with it, he/she buys all the other ones. Our hope is that every one of them will read "Chicken Soup for the College Soul" so they go to college and stay in college. College gives you the key to admission to the ballpark called the good life. We wanna be able to have that good life,

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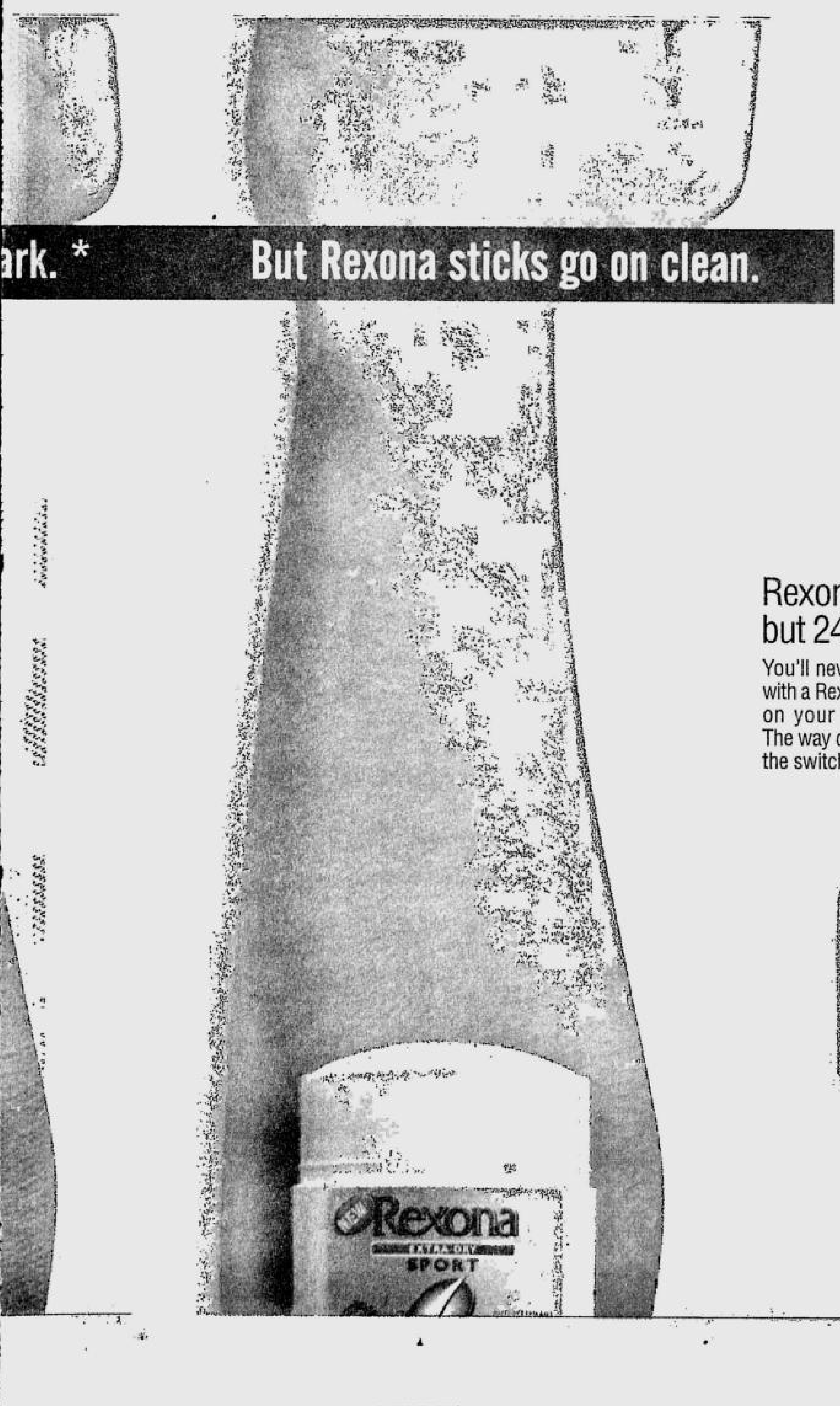

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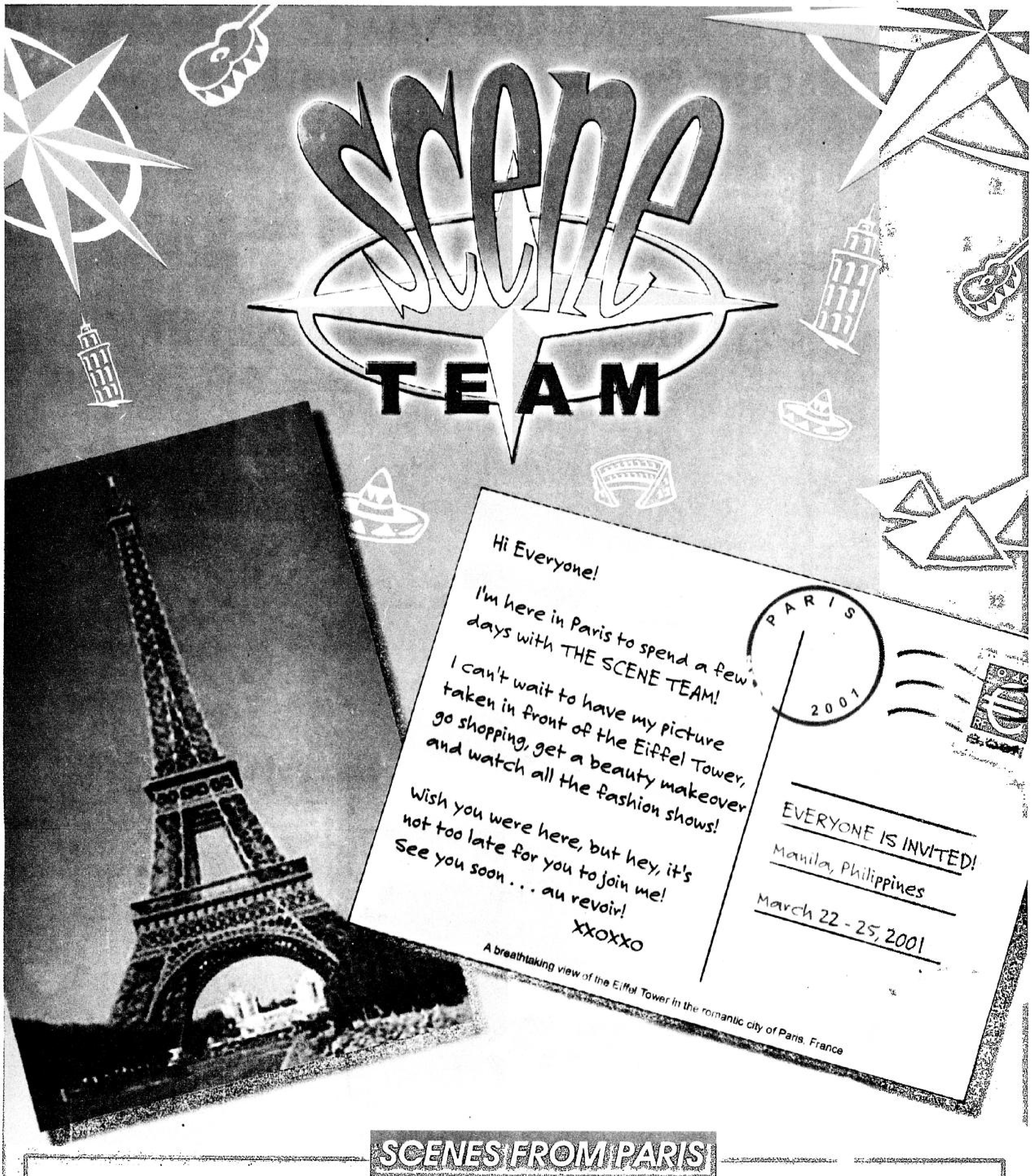

Hi Everyone!

I'm here in Paris to spend a few days with THE SCENE TEAM!

I can't wait to have my picture taken in front of the Eiffel Tower, go shopping, get a beauty makeover and watch all the fashion shows!

Wish you were here, but hey, it's not too late for you to join me! See you soon . . . au revoir!

XXOXXO

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Manunuri to name best Filipino films of the '90s

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

THE '90S were a difficult era for Philippine cinema. Like the decade before, the '90s were hard-pressed to repeat the second golden age of Philippine film in the 1970s. If one considers that the first golden age took place in the 1950s—the era when **Gerry de Leon**, **Lamberto Avellana**, **Eddie Romero** and **Manuel Silos** made their masterpieces—then one can hazard the guess that the cycle of achievement in Philippine cinema takes place roughly every 20 years. But the '90s broke the pattern. Up to now, we're still praying for the third golden age of Philippine cinema.

The '90s saw the deaths of **Lino Brocka** and **Ishmael Bernal**, two of the most supreme directorial voices of the '70s. It witnessed the silence of **Mike de Leon** and **Laurice Guillen**, who protested the blatant commercialism of the Philippine studio system by retreating to their private selves.

But the '90s weren't all that bad. Toward the end of the decade, there was the rise of exciting young directors like **Jeffrey Jeturian** and **Lav Diaz**. **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**, who started her career in the '80s, came into her own and made "Milagros" and "Jose Rizal"—with mixed results, yes, but with the conviction of her aesthetic vision.

The '90s also saw technical achievements and first-rate acting performances. Veteran actors like **Vilma Santos**, **Nora Aunor**, **Elizabeth Oropesa** and **Jaclyn Jose** consolidated their reputations. Audiences were treated to exciting new actors such as **Raymond Bagatsing**, **Carlo Aquino**, **Serena Dalrymple** and **Gerald Madrid**.

On March 24 at the University of the Philippines Theater, during the 24th Gawad Urian, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics, will name the top Filipino movies of the '90s. The ceremonies will be staged by Airtime Marketing and broadcast over RPN 9.

Gawad Dekada

IN GAWAD Dekada, the Manunuri will take Filipinos back to a tour of Philippine cinema of the '90s, defining its high points and low moments, and identifying signposts that may be of some relevance to Philippine cinema in the 21st century.

Qualified to be named as best films of the '90s are the Gawad Urian best picture winners of the past decade. They include "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak" (1990), "Ipagpatawad Mo" (1991), "Ikaw Pa Lang ang Minahal" (1992), "Makati Ave. Office Girls" (1993), "The Fatima Buen Story" (1994), "Sana Maulit Muli" (1995), "Segurista" (1996), "Milagros" (1997), "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?" (1998) and "Bayaning Third World" (1999).

Other notable films of the '90s are also qualified like "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit" (1991), "The Flor Contemplacion Story" (1995), "Jose Rizal" (1998), "Kriminal ng Bo. Concepcion" (1998) and "Pila Balde" (1999).

The Gawad Dekada will also name the top actors and actresses of the '90s. In the running are the Gawad Urian best acting winners in lead and supporting roles. They include Vilma Santos ("Ipagpatawad Mo," "Dahil Mahal Kita: The Dolzura Cortez Story" and "Bata, Bata"), Nora Aunor ("Andrea, Paano Ba Ang Maging Isang Ina?", "Flor Contemplacion Story" and "Bakit May Kahapon Pa?"), **Lorna Tolentino** ("Narito Ang Puso Ko"), **Sharon Cuneta** ("Madrasta"), **Richard Gomez** ("Hihintayin," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" and "Wating"), **Aga Muhlach** ("Sana Maulit Muli") and Raymond Bagatsing ("Kriminal" and "Milagros").

Nora vs Vilma

EXPECT the Nora Aunor-Vilma Santos rivalry to heat up in the run-up to the Gawad Dekada. It is without question the two dominated the '90s as far as the Gawad Urian was concerned, with each winning three best actress plums that decade.

It is notable, however, that on two of those three occasions, Nora had to share the trophy with another actress—in 1993 with **Helen Gamboa**, who essayed Flor Contemplacion in **Tikoy Aguiluz**'s "Bagong Bayani" (quite an irony since Nora won her trophy for playing the same role in **Joel Lamangan**'s "The Flor Contemplacion Story), and in 1996 with Sharon Cuneta, who won for "Madrasta" (Nora won for "Bakit May Kahapon Pa?").

In contrast, Vilma did not share her trophies with anyone. But as one critic of the critics said, those were the rare times when the Manunuri made up their minds. In most instances, they couldn't. That's why the Gawad Urian has become noted for its surprising ties, which aren't surprising anymore.

A tie?

SO in keeping with the Manunuri tradition, will there be another tie again in this year's Gawad Urian? Considering the tight race, perhaps. Take a look at the nominees and even you wouldn't be able to make up your mind.

Best Picture: "Tanging Yaman" (Star Cinema), "Laro sa Baga" (Regal), "Deathrow" (GMA Films) and "Tuhog" (Regal).

Best Director: Laurice Guillen ("Tanging Yaman"), **Chito Roño** ("Laro), Jeff Jeturian ("Tuhog"), Tikoy Aguiluz ("Biyaheng Langit"), **Maryo J. de los Reyes** ("Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya") and Joel Lamangan ("Deathrow").

Best Actress: Vilma Santos ("Anak"), **Ina Raymundo** and **Irma Adlawan** ("Tuhog"), **Gloria Romero** ("Tanging Yaman") and **Alessandra da Rossi** ("Azucena").

SOLOMONIC CRITICS. In the 1996 Gawad Urlan, the Manunuri made Nora Aunor ("Bakit May Kahapon Pa?") and Sharon Cuneta ("Madrasta") share the Best Actress award. Other winners were Tonton Gutierrez (best actor, "Abot Kamay Ang Pangarap"), Gina Alajar (best actress, "Mulanay") and Albert Martinez (best supporting actor, "Segurista").

Best Actor: **Carlos Morales** ("Laro"), **Piolo Pascual** ("Lagarista"), **Cogie Domingo** ("Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga"), **Eddie Garcia** ("Deathrow"), **Dolphy** ("Markova: Comfort Gay"), **Johnny Delgado** ("Tanging Yaman") and **Dante Rivero** ("Azucena").

Best Supporting Actress: **Angel Aquino** and **Monique Wilson** ("Laro"), Jaclyn Jose ("Deathrow"), **Cherie Gil** ("Sugatang Puso"), **Dina Bonnevie**, **Hilda Koronel** and **Janet McBride** ("Tanging Yaman").

Best Supporting Actor: **Jeffrey Quizon** ("Markova"), **Rey Ventura** ("Deathrow"), **Baron Geisler** ("Anak"), **Jericho Rosales** ("Tanging Yaman"), **Pen Medina** ("Lagarista") and Nante Montral ("Tuhog").

Best Screenplay: Tikoy Aguiluz, **Myrna Medina Bhunjhun**, **Ianco de la Cruz** and Rey Ventura ("Biyaheng Langit"); **Armando Lao** ("Tuhog"), **Edgardo Reyes** ("Laro"), **Jose Javier Reyes** ("Sugatang Puso"), **Shaira Mela Salvador**, **Raymond Lee** and Laurice Guillen ("Tanging Yaman").

Best Cinematography: **Romulo Araojo** ("Azucena" and "Biyaheng Langit"), **Ely Cruz** ("Lagarista"), **Neil Daza** ("Laro"), **Monino Duque** ("Deathrow"), **Videlle Meily** ("Tanging Yaman"), **Richard Padernal** ("Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya"), and **Boy Yniguez**, **Shane Clemente** and **Sherman So** ("Tuhog").

Best Editing: Myrna Medina Bhunjhun and **Liza Banaag** ("Biyaheng Langit"), **Ron Dale** ("Tuhog"), **Manet Dayrit** ("Laro"), **Danny Gloria** ("Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya"), **George Jarlego** ("Tanging Yaman") and **Jess Navarro** ("Deathrow").

Best Production Design: **Rey Abano** ("Markova"), **Michael Guizon** ("Laro"), **Ron Heritas** ("Tuhog"), **Edgar Martin Littaua** ("Lagarista" and "Tanging Yaman"), **Joey Luna** ("Deathrow") and **Ben Payumo** ("Biyaheng Langit").

BINIBINING Pilipinas candidate Imee Martinez in the smashing Peter Lim gown she was not allowed to wear by contest organizers.

Best Music: **Ryan Cayabyab** ("Azucena" and "Deathrow"), **Jay Durias** ("Tuhog"), **Jesse Lasaten** ("Laro"), **Jessie Lucas** ("Sugatang Puso") and **Joy Marfil** ("Markova").

Best Sound: **Ross Diaz** and **Ric Loresto Jr.** ("Tuhog"), **Albert Michael Idioma** ("Deathrow" and "Lagarista"), Idioma and **Rudy Canzalan** ("Laro") and **Ramon Reyes** ("Biyaheng Langit" and "Tanging Yaman").

The chair of the Manunuri is **Agustin "Hammy" Sotto**, founding president of the Society of Film Archivists. The vice chair is **Mario Hernando**, Sunday Malaya editor, MTRCB member, and special lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas.

Members include MTRCB chair **Nick Tiongson**, broadcast and print personality **Butch Francisco**, Ramon Magsaysay awardee **Bienvenido Lumbera**; **Gigi Javier-Alfonso**, film professor at the UP College of Mass Communication (UP-CMC) and dean of the UP Diliman School of Distance Education; **Ellen Paglinauan**, dean of UP-CMC; Bro. **Mike Rapatan**, FSC, chair of the Department of Communication of the De La Salle University, and **Roland Tolentino**, assistant professor at UP-CMC.

Uncharitable Binibining Pilipinas

DESIGNERS and talents scouts are protesting the alleged shabby treatment they got from the Binibining Pilipinas organizers. In the last installment of the contest, the kin, friends and managers of the beauty contestants were shoved out of the Araneta Coliseum grounds by security guards after the presentation. One would have expected the Binibining Pilipinas Charities to schedule enough time for the contestants and their backers to pack up their things; after all, it was no piece of cake for a contestant and her supporters to bring wardrobe, accessories and other requirements to the show. But no extra minute was allowed them to collect their things. After all, the show was over and Binibining Pilipinas Charities had already raked in the money.

House of fashion horrors

THE ORGANIZERS had all bases covered. They didn't even allow the strong contestants to wear gowns of the designers of their choice. They compelled them to wear gowns from the Binibining Pilipinas Boutique, obviously to promote the interest of its mothball-smelling fashion house.

Zorayda Ruth Andam, the winner of the Binibining Pilipinas-Universe crown, wasn't allowed to wear the gown made for her by **Michael Angelo Afable**. The UP law student was made to wear a gown that didn't enhance her endowments. She won in spite of the gown.

Imee Martinez, a licensed chemist and graduate of the Philippine Science High School and UP, wasn't as lucky. She was forced to abandon the exquisite beaded pink gown with serpentina trail made for her by top young designer **Peter Lim**. The people behind the production quickly dismissed the gown and replaced it with a lackluster pink affair with a pleated long skirt that harked back to the perma-press-crazy days of the '70s.

Her parents, who had come all the way from Dipolog, were aghast at her gown and complained to Lim who couldn't do anything. "*Bakit naman aping-api ang anak namin* (Why are they being unfair to our daughter)?" they asked.

Perhaps as a result of the decrepit gown, Martinez, whom many in the press had considered a strong candidate, didn't make it to the top 10.

Thankless job

YOU would think that since designers and talent managers scour the earth for beauty talents to present to the Binibining Pilipinas organizers, they would at least get free tickets to the presentation. No, they have to pay their way. Even parents of the contestants must buy tickets.

And what do the designers get for bringing the contestants whose participation keeps the Binibining Pilipinas franchise alive and lucrative? They get nothing. They cannot even dress their talents to promote their fashion designs. They cannot even get free tickets. They cannot even get a modicum of hospitality from the organizers and the security guards of Araneta Coliseum.

Chicken soup for the Pinoy soul

(From page G5)

and help each person succeed. If you get a bachelor's degree you make $1.7 million, master's degree $2.2 million and if you get a Ph.D., that's over $3.5 million. So education makes a big difference.

What's your bachelor's degree?

I have a degree in philosophy and communication, master's degree in comprehensive and transitory design science and Ph.D. in human behavior. I studied with a guy named Buckminster Fuller, the guy who designed spherical buildings made out of triangles...operative manual for spaceship earth. He was the biggest thinker on the planet. I was invited to go to a lecture of Bucky's and I went, "Holy cow!" I thought I was smart. I was a wise guy and I was getting good grades. But he was really smart.

Do you feel extra pressure to raise the "ideal family" considering you're an inspirational speaker and you've sold so many inspirational books? Because some people are really good at advising other people but they can't save themselves.

The spiritual answers are known by their fruit. Both my daughters are scholarship students. Honor students get good grades. Scholarship students mean they're doing so well in a public school but they will be able to go on scholarship in college. One is doing a 3.8 out of 4, the other is doing 3.98. Melanie, the little one, said, "What does that mean, daddy?" "That means you'll be able to go to college on scholarship, although daddy and mommy have saved money to make sure you can go." Both of them want to be veterinarians. One wants to have a horse ranch and the other wants to have an elephant ranch. She just knows everything about elephants. I said the only way it works is if you don't spend the money for your college, we'll make a scholarship. Mommy and daddy will make a scholarship to you. Melanie is such a good singer right now that she has a little group called The Madrigals. She will be singing at Carnegie Hall on March 24. When I get back from Asia, I'll sleep for one day and we'll go straight to New York. Hers is the only seventh grade group to get to perform at Carnegie Hall. She sings like Celine Dion. Because the people in her group are Vietnamese, Hispanic, a couple of Koreans, they didn't have enough money. Melanie knows that mommy and daddy believe in writing and the power of the pen. So she wrote a little letter to all of my mailing list, to 700 good friends, and said, "You know my daddy as somebody who talks too much." (Laughs) "And perhaps you've read his books. He and mommy are paying my way to go to Carnegie Hall, but some of these kids can't raise the $700 to fly back and forth and stay in New York. Perhaps you could contribute to 501 C3 at my school." She raised $14,000.

Right now I am the honorary chair of the March of Dimes with Melanie Griffith, the actress. She's married to a little unfamous guy named Antonio Banderas. I've never met an actor that I like more than Antonio. When we were together just now in New York, Melanie was introducing me. Melanie's partner in a business that I own a little piece of is named Liz, and my daughters are Melanie and Elizabeth. There are 2,000 people trying to get to Melanie and Liz. They were not there for me at all. Melanie said, "Come here. You gotta meet Antonio." And he hugs me and said, "I understand you have kids with my wife's name and Liz's name. I'm making 'Zorro 2' right now. I want you to come." I said, "Oh man! My kids would just love that Antonio. I'm just writing a movie with Bob Allan called 'The One-Minute Millionaire' and we wanna have Anthony Hopkins. Is Anthony in 'Zorro 2'?" He said, "No, he died." I said, "He died?" He said, "Yeah, in the movie." (Laughter) So on April 29 we're having the biggest walkathon in America. Antonio and Melanie will be walking with me to raise more money. All the money we are raising for the March of Dimes will go to kids with birth defects. I believe every kid ought to be loved. We'll raise $10 million to end blindness and (help) hemophiliac babies...The reason people become wealthy is you get your future days paid for so you can afford what no one else can afford to do to make everybody else better off.

> 'We all need editors. Sometimes it's a painful job to edit. Jack won't edit his own friends so he gives it to me. I will not edit my own wife. She's a great writer. I said, 'Jack, you edit Pat because I don't need to fight it at home'

All these charities, not every one who's successful has a heart for that. Where does that come from?

No one has ever asked me that question. I don't know if I have thought about it. I would say that both my parents, though they were language illiterate Danish people. My daddy owned a bakery and he supported everything he could. They would never come to PTA because he felt they would put him down, "You're stupid. You're a dumb Dane" and all that. That was his big fear level and my mother's, too. They couldn't support us in that level. My mother had a giant heart. She'd help everyone. My wife, if she sees a frog that got squished by a car, she'd take it home. That's how, I think, my daughters have decided to become vets. We got 74 animals on one acre of land. It's amazing—peacock, bunnies, chickens, fish. But she just took a pigeon to a vet and the vet said the pigeon won't live. Elizabeth said, "Just watch me." The pigeon is (now) totally healthy.

Can you go to a mall in America and not have people swarm around you?

This is what's beautiful about being an author. I sit in airplanes and people don't believe it's me. They say, "What do you do?" I say, "I write books." "You don't. What do you write?" " 'Chicken Soup.' " "You do not!" (Laughter) The thing is in a book like this you get this tiny picture. If you see that picture would you recognize it was me? No! And most of them think they'll never meet an author. It's better to look at a picture and hear, "You look better in real life." You'd hate to wake up and say, "God, you're ugly!"

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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HE OVERSEES OPERATIONS WITH HIS GLOBE HANDYPHONE

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5:30 PM
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Gerard Garcia runs his office based on his refined sales acumen. And trusts his Globe Handyphone to see him through. "Hands down, Globe offers better service and excellent features. In fact, I'll be upgrading to GlobeXplore very soon—I can already imagine what it would be like!" he reasons.

Since his job requires him to be in transit and on mobile around the country, he utilizes his Globe Handyphone to oversee the general operations of his staff and major dealers nationwide. "A colleague of mine even dared me that his phone was better. But when we went around, especially in the south, I had better coverage than him," he attests. "Now, the signal is great! Even from my home in Antipolo, I get full bars!" he quips.

Internationally, Globe has also proven to be helpful to Gerard, "Last year, I was in the US for three weeks. And I had clear access and connection while there. That was really something!" Gerard claims.

"I used to have a Communicator. It was as if the office was with me all the time. But now I'm using a WAP-capable handset because I want to go online—retrieve information about news, traffic updates or even FindMe," Gerard tells us. Lately though, he finds himself making calls more often, "It's more convenient and cost-wise, there's not much difference. We're even thinking of cutting down on the number of landlines in the office since everybody is already Globe connected," he discloses.

"Let's put it this way—I know if I need to use it, I could do so wherever and whenever," he declares.

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The greatest sale on earth

A DEDICATED follower of fashion: Sale organizer, socialite and PR whiz Margery Au stands amid the designer loot.

By Kitty Go

NO one follows fashion as avidly as a Hong Kong *tai tai* (literally means wife in Chinese; but in Hong Kong, the word is used to denote socialites/women of leisure or ladies who lunch). And no one has more means to buy the current season's biggest fashion hits than a *tai tai*. But to sell? Do they even part with the goods? Of course they do! Margery Au, one of the pillars of Hong Kong society, makes an event of it.

Since late 1996, Ms Au has successfully held quarterly sales of fashion items. The famous and well-attended *tai tai* sale is officially called "Celebrities' New and Secondhand Clothes/ Handbags/Accessories Sale." Don't let the "secondhand" fool you as Hong Kong *tai tais* are notorious for wearing their clothes only a few times or not at all.

I asked Ms Au why socialites hardly wear their clothes more than once or even wear them at all. She answered matter-of-factly, "Well sometimes, you buy something and when you get home, you realize you don't like it anymore. Or sometimes the clothes sit so long in the closet that they've gone out of style."

Not that the clothes in the sale were terribly out of style. Hardly. I found a Prada belt bag, Celine tie-dye dress and Paul and Joe dresses and tops from spring 2000. There was a never-worn classic black Gucci dress with tags on for HK$1,500. The sale even had some Carlos Falchi python wrist bags currently being sold at Joyce.

The sale merchandise consists of about 80 percent clothes and 20 percent accessories and leather goods. Of the total, only 5 percent are men's clothing. Think of the sale as a designer resale rather than retro as most of the stuff is on the average about a couple years old. Unlike resale shops abroad where you have to look long and hard for the labels, in Ms Au's sales, the labels scream at you. It is a veritable treasure trove of popular and esoteric designer labels from *tai tai* staples such as Chanel, Hermes, Loewe, Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Prada, Dior, Valentino, Manolo Blahnik, Jil Sander, Dolce e Gabbana, Armani, Versace, Celine, etc., to no less expensive cult brands like Dries van Noten, Voyage, Pucci, Martin Margiela, Jimmy Choo, Roberto Cavalli, Tsumori Chisato, Fake, Cynthia Rowley, Voyage, Jill Stuart, etc. I found a delightful Bella Freud wool sweatshirt with her signature bull terrier for about HK$400, a luxurious Nina Ricci cashmere cape for about HK$600, a sumptuous Miu Miu oversized ribbed sweater for HK$300 and a classic Galliano for Dior suit at HK$2,280. How could any dedicated follower of fashion go wrong? Listen to the ringing of registers—*ka-ching*!

Not just anyone can unload their Rolls Royce trunk-full of clothes in these sales. You have to be a friend of Ms Au, and she's not telling who joins the sales unless they willingly give out their names. From the Chinese newspapers, I was able to gather a few names of the ladies who went public, such as Arcadia Huthart, Scarlet Ma, Ming Ho and Flora Cheong-Leen.

How does Ms Au keep track of sales within the 1,200 sq ft of designer-labeled space in the HK Exhibition Center? Each tag and rack has a code and there is a master list to cross-check the merchandise with. "I give an alphabetical code, like A for me. I'm always the A," says Ms Au

THE GREATEST/ p.H2

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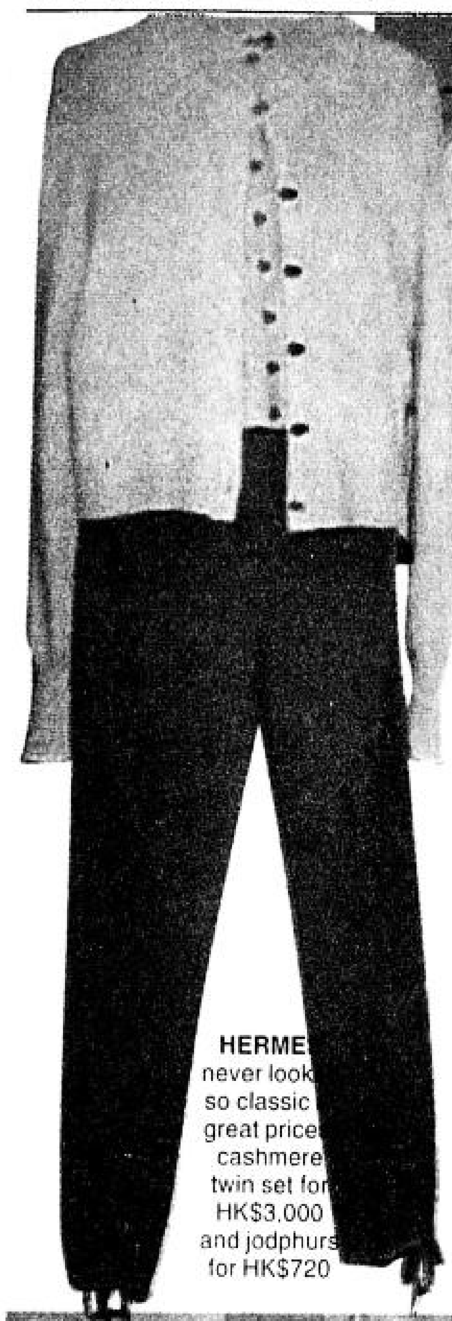

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The greatest sale on earth

(From page H1)

with a giggle. "They can be initials or any combination of letters I assign." I asked if a social observer like me could figure out the owners by the code. I got an adamant "No. The women who join the sale don't even know who else is involved unless they talk among themselves." But sometimes fans would come in looking for clothes of a particular socialite and they would point her to the racks. Designer and social celebrity Flora Cheong-Leen is admired for her standout style so her admiring *tai tais* come in looking to buy into her good taste.

THIS classic Saint Laurent salt-and-pepper boucle jacket for HK$1,500

A FASHIONISTA'S DREAM: 1,200 sq ft of labels and style

A fashion first

Ms Au got this ingenious sale idea from her daughter. She told her mother that in Europe and America, people made a business of selling secondhand (what we now fashionably call vintage) items from furniture to clothes. That gave Ms Au the idea of getting her friends together to have a sale in 1996. Ms Au owns the PR and events firm The Venue and part of her social circle are Hong Kong's crème de la crème who attend her events for Fendi, Chaumet, Burberry, Tag Heuer, etc.

The first sale in 1996, which she claims was her best, was in her old office in Coda Plaza on McDonnell Road in Central. These days she holds the sale in public venues such as the HK Exhibition Center in the China Resource Center. For this sale, she had 450 people looking through the racks on opening day. When I was there, one of her friends from China came just to buy things. Ms Au seemed to know many of the ladies who were coming in. The customer base of these secondhand sales surprised me. The figures will surprise you, too. The buyers range in age from 25-65 years old. Some 25 percent are professionals such as doctors and lawyers, a surprising 15 percent are CEOs or company directors, 35 percent are office and career girls and 25 percent are fellow *tai tais* from all walks of life. The celebrity socialite donors also shop, proof that everyone loves a bargain. Even the rich and famous. Especially the rich and famous.

I asked whether or not she thought the negative attitude of Chinese toward old clothes would be a problem. "I was surprised about the success of the sales myself. But I think if the clothes are clean and hardly worn, people don't mind. That's why I keep it to a small group of women who I know have great style and take care of their things. Plus, it's easier to talk to friends," she explained.

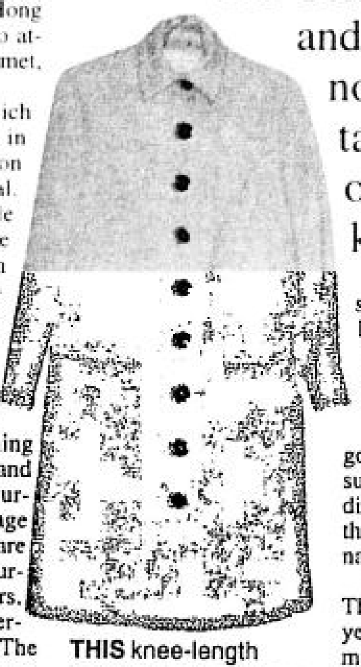
She gets 50 percent of all the proceeds, and that goes into all the expenses incurred during the sale such as staff's wages, rental, publicity, etc. The ladies get the other half and can choose to do whatever they want with it. Ms Au personally prefers to donate her proceeds to a school for the deaf.

This year, Ms Au plans to hold two more sales. The next one will be in August and the last for the year will be early December. "So we can hit Christmas," she says. Watch this space so you can plan your HK trips around the sale dates

Love to love bargains? Are you a starving fashionista with aspirational *tai tai* tastes? Aren't we all? Tell me about it.

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

In Hong Kong, 'tai tai' means 'tiangge.' But on sale are Fendi, Carlos Falchi, Prada, Gucci and Celine—and we're not talking of knockoffs



THIS knee-length Park Avenue princess camel wool coat by Ines de la Fressange can be had for the parking fee price of HK$980.

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TAIPAN TRIO. Ricky Delgado with newlyweds Jay and Lance Gokongwei

CHARLIE Carmona and Claudia Bermudez on a night out

PRINTED MATTERS. Harriet Ann Dy and Iñigo Elizalde

DUCHESS of style Therese Coronel Santos

TRENDSPOTTING style from Karla Delgado

AVANT-"GUARD." Michael Sallentes and Ces Drilon

THE DIVAS. Beng Dee, Joyce Stalder and Tina Ocampo

Almost Anonymous

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

LAST week's "Anonymous to Zed" bash painsthkingly alphabetized the city's chi-chi social set from show-biz denizens, funky fashionistas, power brokers, business and media mavens—they all held fort at the NBC Tent.

Most of them were part of the show, the much-awaited Anonymous gala, where a wide variety of hipsters of anonymity paraded down the runway, expertly executed by **Ariel Lozada.**

From the minute one received the "Message in a Bottle" invites from fashiondom's power couple **Ricco and Tina Maristela Ocampo,** and the poster-type flyers by birthday boy **Keren Pascual** and party coordinator **Pepper Teehankee,** you knew this was one show you would not want to miss.

The "white-collared crowd" was requested to come in black, but knowing Manila's penchant for sartorial color, it was a fashion feast of pinks, pastels and grays. Easily the best dressed were **Leica Carpo,** in a beaded **Patrice Ramos** top paired with beaded gears, **Ces Drilon** in an androgynous white shirt and black-tie outfit, **Nanette Medved-Po** in an all-white dress and, of course, Tina Maristela Ocampo, in a Paltrow-esque diva dress in muted gray.

With Anonymous fashions reconstructed and deconstructed by stylesetters **Michael Salientes, Iñigo Elizalde, Melissa La'O** and other young designers, an edgy funk parade ensued.

Cocktails were served by the powerhouse club corps of Venezia, Stars, Spoon and Strike Zone. This, while I downed Agwa shots. Too bad some of the guests started leaving after the show. But for hardcore partyphiles, the night was just starting.

DJ **Manolet Dario** started his musical journey of trance-y tunes as the guests engaged in random revelry—it was a feast of booze and schmooze.

I left the Saturday night happening past midnight, as a stream of guests rushed in and out of the party venue.

Some people say "society is dead." Judging from this party, it surely is alive and well.

MEN OF VENEZIA. Chito Melo, Ed Roxas and Louie Ysmael at The Tent

UP, UP AND AWAY! Paolo Relucio, Gem Padilla and Chris Badiola after the show

DARIO FAMILY PICTURE. Maribel, Jed, Janine, Teddy and Manolet

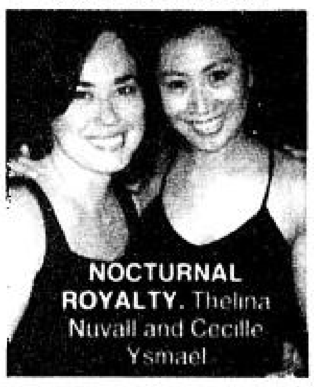
HEIRESS-APPARENT. Bettina Ocampo with dad Ricco

CORPORATE JUNKIE. Style file Melissa La'O

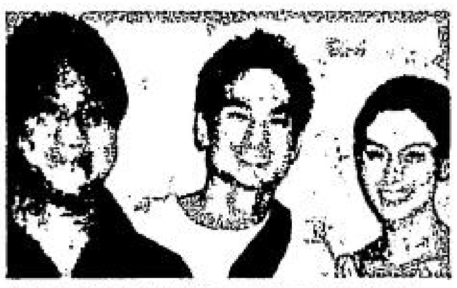
MILITARY funk with Freida Dario

THE FACE OF ANONYMOUS. Rissa Samson in luxe mode

CHALK talk with Reret Bonoan, Romina Urra and Georgette Nepomuceno

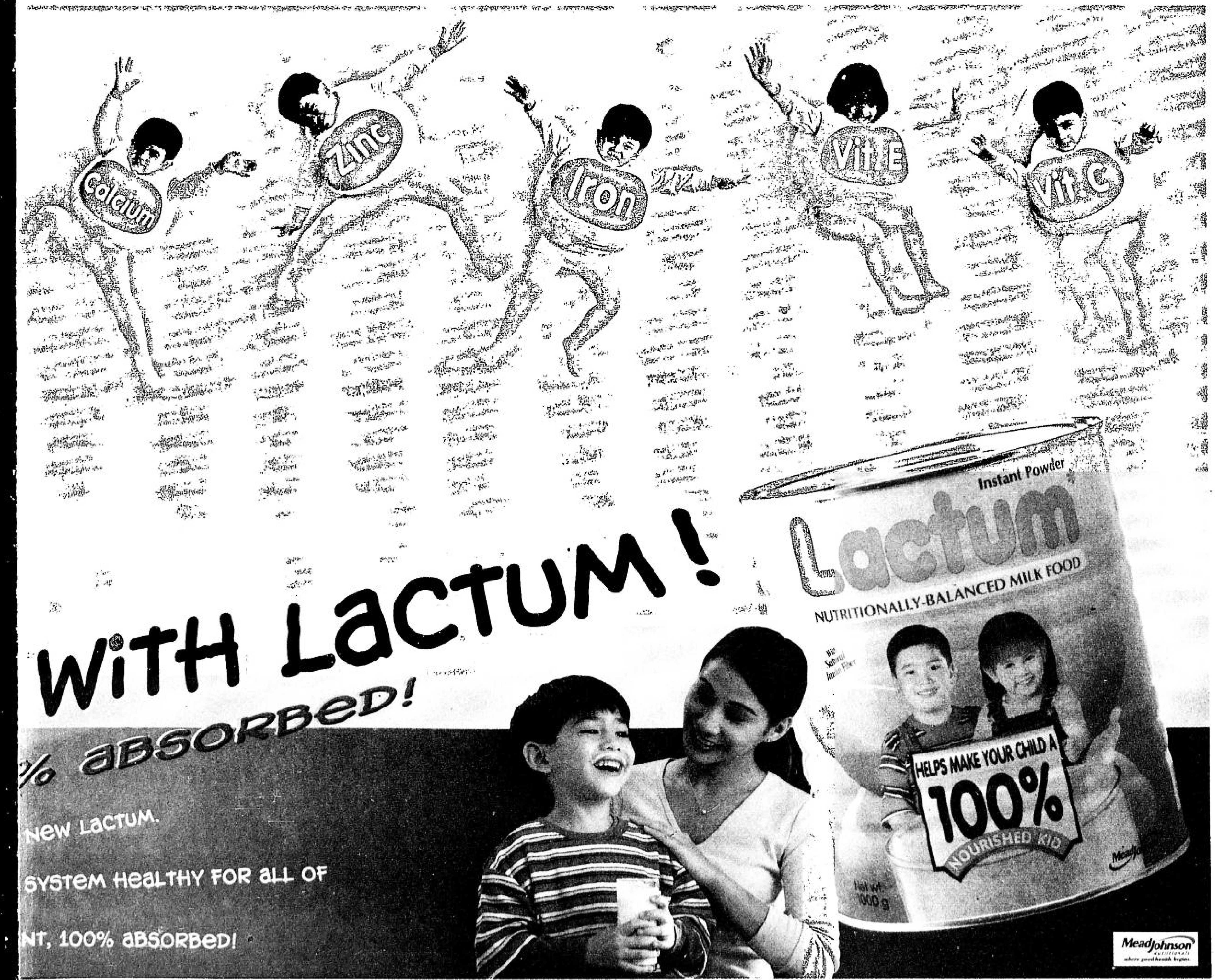


NOCTURNAL ROYALTY. Thelina Nuvall and Cecille Ysmael



TRENDY TRIO. Keren Pascual, Kenji Marquez and Eazel Don

STYLE SET. Randy Ortiz, Rajo Laurel, Jackie Aquino, Janine Dario and Rey Lanada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SYSTEM HEALTHY FOR ALL OF
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

SM Foundation's Share Your Extras charity campaign is launched at the SM Megamall to help indigent families under the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

REPRESENTATIVES of some of the agencies and organizations participating in the campaign

Share your extras with the poor

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman was the guest of honor at the recent launch of SM Foundation's Share Your Extras charity campaign at the SM Megamall.

Ongoing until March 21 at all SM Supermalls, the project aims to receive donations of extras—clothes, shoes, bags, houseware, furniture, even loose change—to help the less fortunate. These extras will benefit indigent families under the DSWD's Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDDS) program in Ilocos Sur, Mountain Province, Kalinga, Iloilo, Guimaras, Antique, Cebu, Siquijor, Davao, South Cotabato and Maguindanao.

Getting together for a cause were project proponents Soliman, CIDDS national secretariat OIC Ma. Alicia Bonoan, RPN 9's Dodie Lacuna and Cielo Villaluna, Citylite 88.3's Pinky Aseron, 103.5 K-Lite's Adel Gabot and 99.5 RT's Eric Eloriaga.

They were welcomed by SM president Tessie Sy-Coson, Shopping Centers Management Corp. president Hans Sy, Felicidad Sy, Debbie Sy and SM Foundation executive director Lydia Echauz.

Also lending their support to the project were Zonta International's Lt. Gov. Dandy Gomez as well as representatives from CIDDS partner agencies. These include Department of Education's Ma. Corazon Guerra, Department of Public Works director Burt Favorito, National Anti-Poverty Commission's Jan Michael Constantino and the Federation of Senior Citizen's Association of the Philippines' Leonila Rodriguez.

The event also gathered officials from the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Finance, Department of Interior and Local Government, National Commission on Indigenous People and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, who contributed their time and effort to the project.

Highlights of the program included a short presentation by the Tagumpay SEA-K People's Theater, a rendition of "Para sa Iyo Bayani" by Dianne de la Fuente and the turnover of donations by the DENR as well as SM Mall tenants Kenny Rogers Roasters, Texas Chicken, Penshoppe, Tokyo Tokyo, Sportshouse and National Bookstore.

You, too, can do your share for indigent families from the country's poorest municipalities. Spare some time to sort out your excess clothes, shoes, houseware, even furniture, and bring these to Share Your Extras donation booths at all SM Supermalls. Each donation entitles one to a cash coupon from SM Homeworld.

Now on its third year, Share Your Extras is a joint charity campaign of SM Foundation and the DSWD with media partners RPN 9, Magic 89.9, Citylite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite and 99.5 RT.

PROSPECTIVE beneficiaries of the campaign

CIELO Villaluna of RPN 9

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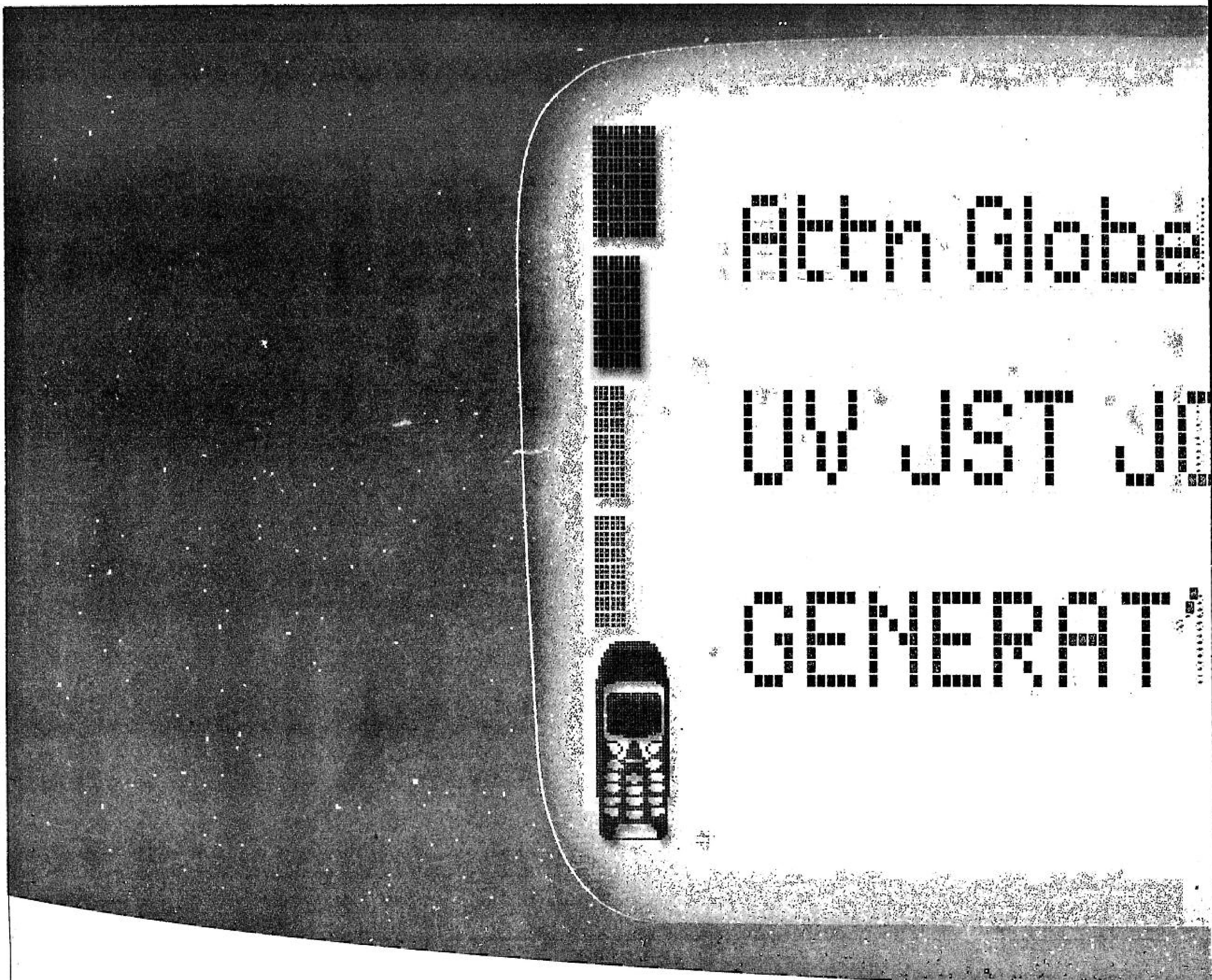

How to text using Globelines 1-900-TXT:

You can send messages to any Globe Handyphone subscriber by composing your own message or by choosing from any of the pre-composed text messages.

1. Dial 1-900-TXT (1-900-898) on your NDD-activated Globelines phone.
2. Press 1 to send a message or wait for the voice prompt.
3. Enter the number of the Globe Handyphone (0917+cellphone number) you are sending the message to.
4. Then choose from the following options:
   * To send a pre-composed message, press 1.
   * To compose own message, press 2.
   * For HELP, press #

To send a pre-composed message:

Pre-composed messages are commonly used text messages that are pre-programmed so that you no longer need to key in your message. To send a pre-composed message, simply key in the number of the message you wish to send.

01 – Where are you?
02 – Please call me now.
03 – I'm home already.
04 – I'm at the office now.
05 – I'm on my way there.
06 – Okay!
07 – How are you?
08 – Have a nice day!
09 – Thank you!
10 – I love you.
11 – Happy Birthday!
12 – I will be late.
13 – I will call you later.
14 – I'm sorry.
15 – What time are you coming home?

To send your self-composed message:

As with cellphone texting, just press the number key once, twice, thrice or four times for the letter you wish to use.

* For space, press zero (0).
* For backspace, press star key once (*); To erase whole word, press star key twice (**).
* For punctuation marks, press
  1 – period (.)
  11- comma (,)
  111 - question mark (?)
  1111 – exclamation point (!)
  11111 – dash (-)
* Press pound key twice (##) to end your message.

1-900

The landline text ser

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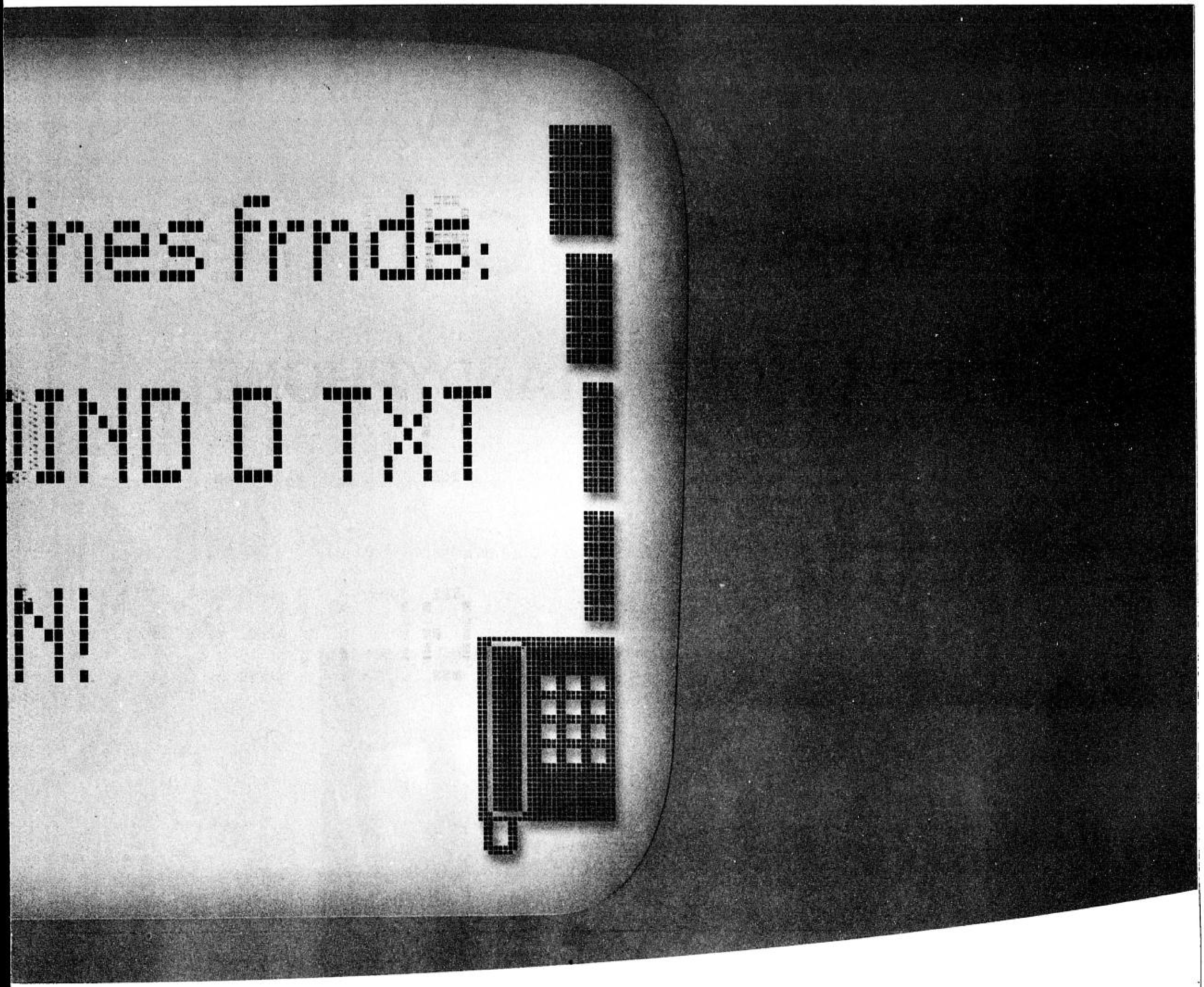

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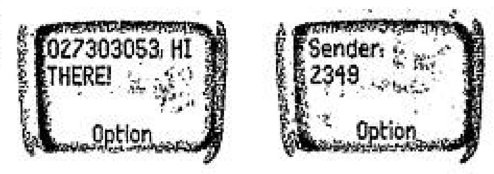

To retrieve messages from your Globelines phone:

You can also retrieve text messages sent to you by any Globe Handyphone subscriber. The text messages you have received will automatically be converted to voice messages.

1. Dial 1-900-TXT (1-900-898) on your NDD-activated Globelines phone.
2. Press 2, which is *For Other Services*. A voice prompt will tell you how many new messages you have received.
3. Then press 1 to retrieve your new messages.

To access information services from your Globelines phone:

Here's another way of getting all the information you want – fast and easy! Access useful and fun information through Globelines 1-900-TXT.

1. Dial 1-900-TXT (1-900-898) on your NDD-activated Globelines phone.
2. Press 2 *For Other Services* or wait for the voice prompt.
3. Press 3 *To Access Information Services*.
4. Then choose from the following options:
   - * For *Quote of the Day*, press 1.
   - * For *Today's Joke*, press 2.
   - * For *Your Daily Horoscope*, press 3.

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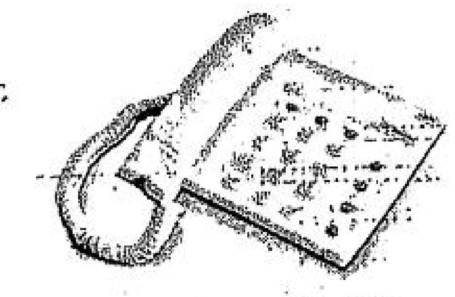

For inquiries, visit your nearest Globe Business Center or call 730-1000.

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Kay explores the world for stories to tell. "If there's one thing I bring with me everywhere I go, it's my Globe. It's easier to get in touch, move around and coordinate stuff—just like having a dependable colleague around all the time," she describes of her relationship with her Globe Handyphone.

Every time she goes on location shoots here or abroad for *Che-Che Lazaro Presents*, Kay would be pleasantly surprised with what her Globe Handyphone can do for her. Being a Globe subscriber, she has had first hand experience on the wonders of networking abroad. "One time, we were in a chopper shooting the Hong Kong skyline and my phone rang. It was a friend calling me from Manila! I was also able to carry on a conversation—without break—while in a car driving through the tunnel connecting Hong Kong and Kowloon. And that's underwater!" she shares and goes on about her many "Globe moments." She considers her most memorable experience as the one when she was in Italy. "Through InfoText, I was able to access information about a monument which I used for my boss' spiels while we were already rolling."

Kay admits that she depends on her Globe Handyphone to resolve the smallest to the biggest of issues. She adds: "My boss is just a call away. So, I can reach her if and when I need to consult with her to make quick decisions—even as we have the cameras rolling. Besides, most of the people I call already have a Globe so making that connection is easy and very practical."

When Kay finally gets her stories done after seemingly endless hours of editing, she resorts to using her GENTXT card to unwind. "I just saw the premier of *Hannibal* for free, courtesy of my GENTXT card. Other times, I check the movie skeds and reserve seats through my Globe and I'll be off to see a good film. And if I happen to love the theme song, I use it as my ringtone!" she beams.

"There's simply nothing not available with my Globe," she concludes.

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MUST-HAVE LOOK FOR MEN. Pleated trousers and pointed shoes

Malacañang's dethroned queens, a day in the life of Miriam Santiago

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-HAVE look for men—pleated trousers and pointed shoes. Good news to guys who never thought pleated trousers and pointed shoes were out (read: eight years ago): they are back in style! You just need to update the look a bit (read: purchase new stuff).

In the recent men's Spring/Summer collection 2001, designers have decided to restore them back to full glory! Top designers such as Prada, Gucci, Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton have abandoned the streamlined look of pants. The shoes are so sharp they'll make cowboys jealous.

Eating out in Manila 2. Last week, my e-mail was flooded with queries and reactions about my article, "Eating Out in Manila." A lot of people asked me the names of the restaurants where the rat and caterpillar episodes happened and shared their own horror stories and even named the culprits. I must point out, however, that I never spoke about the food but the bad service. It is not my intention to put any restaurant in a bad light. As in any business, diners employ people and attract investments. However, if they want to earn and be patronized, they should give quality service and food. They need to take stock of themselves and do a better job. Everyone needs improvement in one area or another.

I am postponing my article on "terror guests" to give way to a letter from one reader. It's high time for disadvantaged clients to speak up and get their money's worth.

Dear Anton,

I've just read your article in the INQUIRER *(03/11/01), and I agree with what you wrote about the poor service we get from restaurants.*

I'm also the type who wants to get the most of my money. I view dining out as something that's supposed to relax you, not just to enjoy the food, but the ambience and service as well.

But the service in most restaurants is deplorable. May I know what restaurants you were talking about? Lately, I've been to restaurants with waiters who frown, look so bored, etc. And they don't even know the menu. Last night, I was in Malate and had dinner at (bleep). The dinnerware was so dusty that when I asked for a new set, the waitress just took the ones on the other table, which were dusty, too. I had to instruct them to get new ones from the cupboard. The food was horrible, and the manager didn't even know the menu.

Anyway, I don't want to whine anymore. But I think the problem is that we Filipinos don't want to speak up. My friends always reprimand me when I complain, because the waiters might spit on my food daw, or something. Even if I complain after the dinner is over (they can't poison me anymore!), they say I should just let it go. And they insist on giving tips even if they themselves complain of the bad service. So, when I read your article, I just felt like, finally, someone has the same views as me!

Well, I just wanted to share that. And on a last note, I do enjoy reading your article every Sunday. It's very straightforward and crisp (somehow the word "crisp" enters my head when I read your articles). And I loved the thing you wrote about Erap's schedule.

gretatan@info.com.ph

TNT tidbits

OSCAR time. It's the 73rd Annual Academy Awards or more popularly known as the Oscars.

Time flies so fast. Weren't we just watching **Gwyneth Paltrow** receiving her award in a pink dress? This year, comedian **Steve Martin** takes over the hosting job from **Billy Crystal**. Will he be as funny? What will the stars wear? Who will do something outrageous à la **Roberto Benigni** and keep audiences entertained after four hours? Will they wear "decent" clothes? (Not if **Cher**'s invited.)

The presentation will be featured on E! starting at 1 a.m. and will last till God knows when on March 26. Here's a tip: Set your VCRs on record mode, just in case you couldn't keep your eyes open any longer.

You know who you are—Mares. Blind items are so popular nowadays that there are people who spend half the day trying to decipher the personalities in Waker-Upper. Well, here's two to spice up your Sunday.

Of late, two ladies called Mares were dethroned from Malacañang. Mare No. 1 and a former Blue Lady were seating next to each other in a salon. These women used to be friends but the Blue Lady apparently snubbed Mare. The hairdresser even asked them, "Don't you know each other?" and the Blue Lady said, "No, we don't." When the Blue Lady left, Mare told the hairdresser, "But she was my friend." Lesson: Define friendship.

Who is this Mare No. 2 who, days after **Erap** was ousted, went to a salon and threw her weight around? She was in such a bad mood. Without an appointment, she demanded to be attended to. She terrorized the hair-

PLEATED/ p.J2

RESTO-ROUNDS

SNACK
Taters
LEAGUE

AN AMERICAN PASTIME WITH A LOCAL TOUCH

For a basketball-crazy nation like ours, it comes as a surprise that an "All-American" baseball snack chain has created a niche all over the country with its wide selection of American snack food. What's more surprising is, this snack chain is not an international franchise but a wholly Filipino-owned corporation.

TATERS, which is an American slang for potatoes, is not your ordinary cinema concession store. A brainchild of Filipino entrepreneur Ana Maria Tanchanco, TATERS has been called a popcorn store, a nacho store, or even a french fries store ever since it opened at the Greenbelt Theater in 1994.

"Most of our customers during that time were moviegoers who bought popcorn and nachos from our store. But what I envisioned for TATERS is not just an ordinary popcorn or nacho stall—TATERS should be the total entertainment snack store," Tanchanco said.

A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

After getting her inspiration from America's favorite pastime, Tanchanco began transforming the little league store into a bigger, major league one. According to Tanchanco, "The use of baseball as TATERS' trade entertainment theme concept serves an ideal model for both our staff and customers. It also connects the health aspect of the sport to TATERS' healthier, low-fat baseball snacks."

With the introduction of American snack foods popularized by baseball, TATERS began attracting more customers to its stores. It continued to expand in key locations like malls, cinemas, theme parks, amusement centers, and sports coliseums.

meal 1
CHICKEN TURKEY-HOTDOG CHIPS
meal 2
TENDERLOIN STEAK BUNWICH FRIES
meal 3
meal 4
meal 5

LEAGUE OF SNACKS

Through research and development, TATERS came up with a product line of healthier snack favorites that are made from only the finest, imported food materials; quickly served; modestly priced; canola-cooked; and high in nutritional value. The TATERS League of Snacks features a host of American snacks divided into five groups—the Fried Features, Baked Classics, Screen Favorites, All-Star Sandwiches and Reel Beverages.

For starters, Fried Features offer finger-licking delights with its Potato munchers—bite-size diced potatoes filled with lots of cheese in a crispy coating. Customers may also choose from pure, breaded, Pollock Fish Sticks to Breaded Mozarella Sticks coated with Italian season breading made from Canada. Aside from the Official Club Fries, there is also a choice of Batters Onion Rings, Sweet Corn Nuggets and Jalapeño Slammers—zesty jalapeño peppers stuffed with cream cheese filling.

The All-Star Sandwiches, on the other hand, feature a roster of delectable, mouth-watering treats such as the freshly grilled Chicken Fillet sandwich and the Tenderloin Steak Bunwich which is made of U.S. prime beef with BBQ sauce on a specially-formulated multi-grain bun.

TATERS also has a Fish Fillet Bunwich that is comprised of 2 pieces of breaded fish fillet topped with tartar sauce; the crowd-favorite Chicken-Turkey hotdog which is made of lean chicken and turkey sausage on a freshly-baked wheat-sesame bun; and the All-American Original Peanut Butter and Jelly Decker with low-fat canola peanut butter and sugar-free jelly on wheat toasts.

For quick snacks and pick-me-ups, try out the Screen Favorites like the fresh and fluffy Power Pop-Ups popcorns; the Catchers Nachos Box filled with baked tortilla corn chips served in dips; the healthier, canola-cooked Flavored Chicharones; the nutty delights of Major Pro Nuts and the Original Crunch Bagger Chips of corn, potato and bagels. TATERS' Baked Classics lets everyone sample its cookie and wheat stix product lines.

And to wash it all down, Reel Beverages offer a concoction of drinks highlighted by Lipton Ice Tea. As the official powdered ice tea provider of TATERS, Lipton Ice Tea is sure to bring in the right refreshing taste perfect for your dining experience. According to Tanchanco, "Ice tea is our most ordered beverage. Health-conscious individuals like drinking our iced tea, especially when we came up with different mixes using Lipton Ice Tea."

TATERS STADIA

Not known for resting on its laurels, TATERS goes beyond the cinema as it introduces TATERS STADIA, the first full service "gigfood" dine-in place. TATERS STADIA is now open at the 2nd level of Robinsons Place Manila's new Padre Faura Wing. During its grand launch last year, customers were treated to a variety of amazing bar shows, sounds from top DJs (DJ Nicky Jurado of Seveneightorange & DJ Carlo Aquino of Sambo's), lobby dancing, incredible lights and sounds, and guaranteed GIGFOOD fun.

According to Tanchanco, "TATERS STADIA offers its customers fun dining in a baseball-themed ambience, DJ music and unique "gigfood" menu concoctions. The "gigfood" experience is a new niche in dining entertainment that's beyond cinema snacking. We would like to invite everyone to have a drink, a snack or a meal. Or just simply hang out and have fun at our new dug-out."

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The "Resto-Rounds" series is being brought to you by Lipton Ice Tea – the perfect partner for any dining experience.

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Malacañang's dethroned queens . . .

(From page J1)

dresser and many heard her tantrums. Dear, it's not that bad. You still have six years to work on the next presidentiable.

Diving for treasure (this part is rated PG). I saw this piece in Cleo, a women's fashion magazine. I'm sharing it with you not only for its shock value but also for the plain rationale, "Who thinks of these things?" It's called a P-s-y snorkel, a device designed for men (and women) who like to go muff diving. It's a breathing apparatus that gives you and her hours of extended pleasure. It is sold for $11.95. Interested parties may log on to their website, www.p-s-ysnorkel.com. Remember to surface once in awhile.

A day in the life of Sen. Miriam Santiago. There is something about her. Is it the hair, her feistiness or the diction? She is the lady we love to hate (closely tied in with **Tessie Oreta**). But for whatever it is, she is still there, an enigma nobody has come close to (or wants to). TNT conjures up a day in the colorful life of Miriam, a former crusader against all things wrong and bad. Now she is... That's for another story.

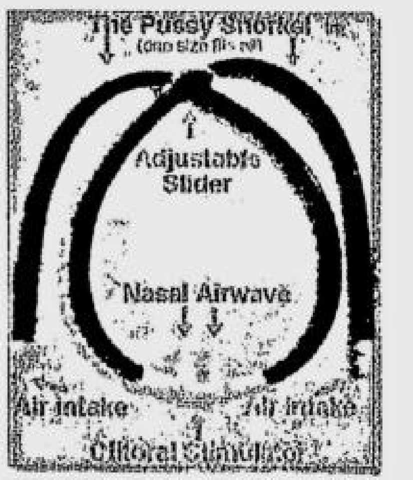
6 a.m. Wake up. Do some stretching and calisthenics. Pray.

6:30 a.m. Does her daily target shooting practice. Picture on the bull's eye: **Rosanna Fores, Bettina Araneta** and other mestizas.

7 a.m. Breakfast with family. Nags her husband to lose weight.

8 a.m. Checks e-mail. Writes to all her former deans in Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford. All the deans don't respond because they don't know her. She enrolled only in their summer programs.

9 a.m. Blow-dries her hair and puts makeup on. Then remembers she will be campaigning. Aware that people like her even without such trappings, washes off her makeup and uses a fork to get the Afro look. Sighs for she realizes she looks like one of her brothers.



WHAT is this apparatus? Rated PG, for mature audiences only

9:30 a.m. She continues to look in the mirror and practices her smile and wave.

10 a.m. Goes back to her trademark frown.

11 a.m. Checks out the construction of her house in La Vista. She is so happy that she will be a neighbor of **GMA**'s family soon.

12 nn. Has lunch alone.

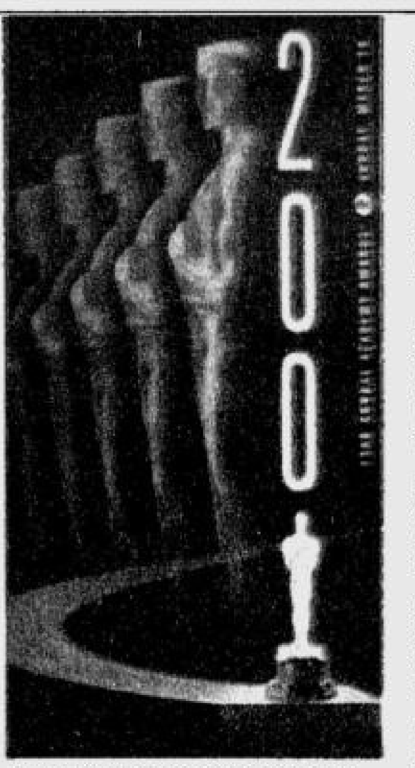
1 p.m. Has a meeting with her staff and campaign organizers. Reprimands them because she is not No. 1 in the senatorial race and asks who the heck is **Noli de Castro** and what has he done.

2 p.m. Goes out to campaign. She is surrounded by adoring fans who think she is such a great person. She thrills them with her speeches, they roar in approval.

3 p.m. She starts attacking all the "*matatabang mayaman na matronang nakatira sa* Makati" and tells them she is the defender of the poor.

4 p.m. Finishes her campaign and goes back to her new van (Mark 3—similar to an *artista* van) and reads her favorite magazine, Hello and InStyle. She wants to be like **Ivana Trump** and **Jennifer Lopez.**

4:15 p.m. She takes out drinks from her cooler, San Pellgrino (Italian bottled water), the only thing she drinks, a habit she acquired when she was living in Europe.



WHO will win the coveted Oscar trophy this year? Oscar night is on March 26, starting at 1 a.m. on E!

5 p.m. Watches tapes of "Debate" and tries to copy the wit of *Mareng* **Winnie Monsod**.

6 p.m. Goes to Polk Street to visit Erap. She asks him when they are going to do a movie together like he did with **Nikki Coseteng**. Title of the film: "Hannibal 2."

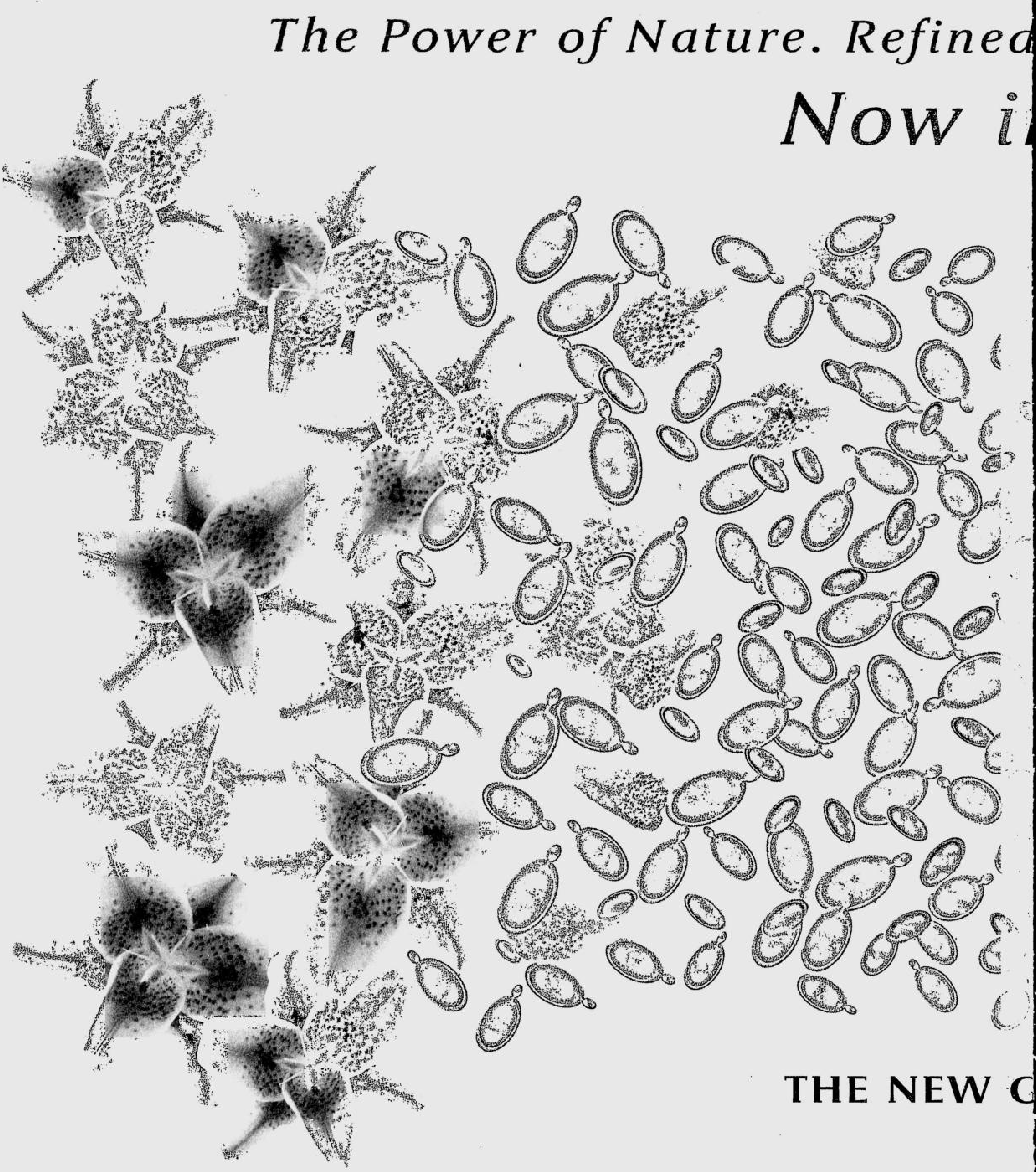
7 p.m. Goes home and spends time with her kids. She inspects and admires all her trophies and awards. She counts them and does her daily spiel of how, when and why she won a particular award. She starts from grade school.

8 p.m. Gets a call from Tessie Oreta. They giggle, laugh, gossip. Then Tessie tells her, "You know we should have been sisters; we are so alike." Miriam slams the phone.

9 p.m. Dinner with her husband at Steak Town. Asks the waiter to cook her beef medium rare, exactly the way she had it when she was living in jolly ol' England.

11:30 p.m. Prays, sleeps, kisses her husband goodnight and kisses Erap's photo, which is next to her bedside table.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com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E-cash convenience around the globe

MAY Cuevas, Mondex Philippines marketing head; Jessica Madroño, Partners Services manager; Erlin Campos, general manager of Sawasdee and Grace Villanueva, Mondex Philippines customer care specialist

WITH THE ARRIVAL of Mondex Card in the local market, the Philippines is set to join the ranks of other countries that are already benefiting from the convenience of conducting multiple functions and cash-less transactions.

As the most widely preferred chip-based card in the world, Mondex is used and recognized in most of the major continents such as Canada, Africa, Europe, Asia, Central and South America and the Middle East. The countries in these regions have developed some of the most advanced electronic systems to enable their citizens to enjoy a sophisticated lifestyle dependent on only one Mondex Card per individual.

In Canada, cities like Quebec and Ontario allow Mondex cards to be used as payment in their transit system, parking meters, vending machines, taxi cabs and fast-food delivery services, as well as on the campuses of the region's two universities, two colleges and many regional high schools. The vending machines, cafeterias and onsite retail services of many offices, factories, hospitals and other workplaces, as well as over 1,000 merchant establishments also accept Mondex electronic cash. This was made possible by various financial institutions that initiated North America's first community-wide implementation of Mondex e-cash in 1996.

In Europe, Norway has also implemented the use of Mondex card in the Norsk Tipping State Lottery, which allows players to pay for games and receive winnings using the chip-based e-cash card. Mondex can also be used to pay for games and to shop via the Internet, mobile phones and digital TV.

Ireland, meanwhile, has initiated "the biggest reason for using a loyalty program using electronic cash card," according to the National Irish Bank. Every £4 that consumers spend using Mondex Card entitles them to a point that serves as entry in several drawings held periodically for various prizes.

The United Kingdom sees the widest implementation of Mondex Card. Mondex UK is involved in a breakthrough high-speed Internet digital connection, and in enabling the conversion of home PCs into personal ATMs where users can log on and replenish the value of their Mondex Cards. The electronic cash is now also being used to pay for online purchases of goods and services as well as in university bars and restaurants, vending machines, school libraries and many other establishments.

Likewise, many universities in Panama and Mexico have allowed Mondex Cards to replace actual cash. At the Universidad Latina, students use Mondex Card to buy photocopies, tickets for concerts, movie tickets and meals at global fast-food establishments like McDonald's and KFC. Meanwhile, the prestigious Central America Institute of Business Administration accepts Mondex Card as the only form of payment.

Mondex has also established territorial licenses with participating financial institutions of various countries like Australia and New Zealand, Africa, Israel, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela, and all over Asia. These territorial licenses enable these establishments to develop their own service programs that will use Mondex Card and draw their own set of e-cash card-carrying customers.

Through Mondex Philippines Inc., the exclusive franchise holder of this innovative payment system from Mondex Int'l., the local market will soon be able to adopt the same scenarios as in the other countries. Negotiations are already underway for the implementation of Mondex Card in banking, financial, retail, health and other commercial industries, with the aim of making the Filipino's card-carrying lifestyle at par with the world.

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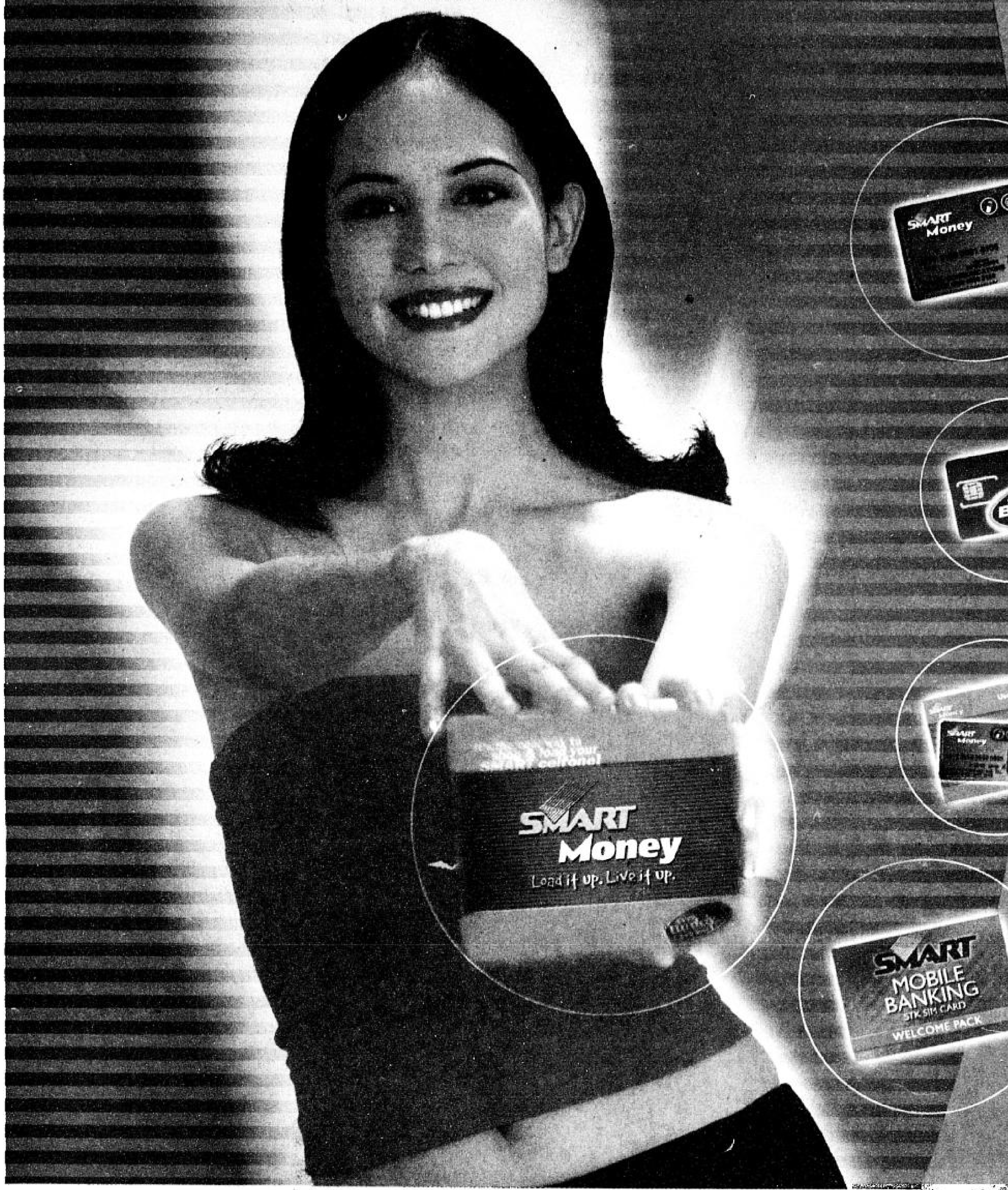

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3. SMART Money MasterCard User's Guide. This is your handy SMART Money info kit. It has everything you need to know about SMART Money.

4. SMART Money Mobile Banking Welcome Pack. It contains all the information about SMART Mobile Banking Solutions. SMART Mobile Banking Solutions allow you to reload your SMART Money MasterCard with just a few clicks from your SMART GSM celfone. To enjoy the full convenience of SMART Money with SMART Mobile Banking Solutions, refer to this handy guide.

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- Reload call and text credits to your SMART Buddy celfone from your SMART Money MasterCard, and with just a few clicks, you can even load your friends' and family's SMART Buddy celfones.
- Manage your SMART Money expenses by keeping track of your card balance using your SMART GSM celfone.
- Load cash value to your SMART Money MasterCard in a few celfone clicks, from your Mobile Bank Account.**
- Buy stuff without even entering a store! With SMART Money, you can order, pay and have goods delivered from wherever you are!
- Manage SMART Money extension cards from your SMART celfone to control your household budget. With just a few clicks, you can dispense cash value for allowances, gasoline expenses or the grocery budget.

* Also available for SMART Gold subscribers
**must be applied for separately

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. If your SMART Buddy or Gold celfone came with the complete SMART Money MBS SIM and FREE SMART Money MasterCard, all you have to do is activate your SMART Money MasterCard.
2. If your SMART Buddy or Gold celfone already has the SMART Money MBS SIM card, just visit the nearest SMART Telecenter to get the SMART Money MasterCard for FREE by presenting your SMART Money MBS SIM card.
3. **HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR SMART Money MasterCard:**
   a. Go to SMART MENU and select SMART Money.
   b. Key in your 12-digit MCOM number (printed on your card) and press OK.
   c. Key in your default wireless PIN (W-PIN): 123456 and press OK.
   d. You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to activate your card.
4. All SMART Money MasterCards to be activated from January 10 to March 31, 2001 shall be credited with Two Hundred Pesos (Php200.00) on the account 24 hours from activation.
5. Activation of the SMART Money MasterCard refers to the initialization of the SMART Money MasterCard with the SMART Mobile Phone prior to use as described in the SMART Money User's Guide.
6. Once the Php200 value has been credited to his SMART Money MasterCard account, the cardholder will be notified via an SMS message in his SMART celfone regarding the credit of such.
7. **HOW TO USE YOUR SMART Money MasterCard:**
   Face-to-Face (In-store) Purchase
   a. To make an in-store purchasing (face-to-face), just present your SMART Money MasterCard to the store cashier for payment of selected merchandise.
   b. Cashier swipes the SMART Money MasterCard in the POS terminal and keys in the purchase amount.
   c. If transaction is approved, message is sent to POS terminal and the sales slip is printed.
   d. Sign on the dotted line and you're off!
   e. You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   a. Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.
   b. Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.
   c. If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your celfone.
   d. To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.
   e. System validates your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account is debited.
   f. You will receive a text message to acknowledge your transaction.

   Transfer value to another SMART Money MasterCard
   a. Go to SMART MENU and select SMART Money.
   b. From SMART Money menu, click on TRANSFER.
   c. Key in the 12-digit MCOM number of the recipient party and press OK.
   d. Select a preset amount and press OK.
   e. Key in your W-PIN and press OK.
   f. The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.
   g. Both you and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfully transferred and your updated balances.
8. Only one (1) SMART Money MasterCard may be activated with a specific SMART Money MBS SIM card.
9. Cardholders who avail of two or more SMART Money MBS SIMs may be provided with the same number of SMART Money MasterCards. In such cases, they may activate all cards and qualify to avail more than once.
10. The FREE Php 200 promo does not apply to SMART Money MasterCard Extension cardholders, whose cards are issued on behalf of the Principal cardholder and may not in any manner be linked to the SMART celfone.
11. Promo period is valid until March 31, 2001.
12. SMART Communications and FIRST e-Bank reserves the right not to credit the Php200 amount to SMART Money MasterCard accounts it deems unfit, such as but not limited to, stolen/lost cards.

* Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR permit # 0016, Series of 2001.

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- Experienced in repairs/maintenance of heavy and light equipments. both diesel and gas engines
- With engineering degree and vocational / trade school diploma

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

- Vocational graduate, with actual experience on installation of diesel and gas gen. sets.
- Experiénce in industrial electrical installation (gas refinery)
- Experienced in high and low voltage cable pulling
- Experienced in installation of floor standing switch gear and power transformer.
- With knowledge to interpret electrical schematic diagram and trouble shooting.
- Trade test with national manpower or meralco foundation institute

H.E. & LT MECHANIC

- With B.S.M.E. degree or vocational graduate.
- Expert in overhauling and diagnostic trouble shooting & hydraulic control system.
- Knowledgeable with the use of engine special tools.
- Expert in engine parts supply survey
- Experienced in caterpillar generator set and detroit diesel engine
- Experienced with computerized diesel engine
- Know how with use of laptop computer

PARTS CONTROLLER

- Especializes in caterpillar, mercedez, iveco parts
- Exposure in categorizing materials and spare parts and other related fields
- Well versed in all aspect of warehousing, such as receiving, issuance ordering and invoicing
- Computer literate with high level of accuracy
- Must have an initiative and dedicated to his field

CHIEF INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

- B.S.E.E. / B.S.I.E. graduate
- With vast experienced of the ff:
  - Medium and low voltage termination
  - Expert in paralling gen. sets (gas & diesel)
  - Operational troubleshooting in electrical automation system
  - Supervision of power plant project
  - Exposure in electrical projects estimate
- Knowledgeable in basic computer and IEE/NEC

FOREMAN INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

- B.S.E.E. or vocational graduate
- With actual experience in high and voltage switch gear and termination
- Have exposure in gen. set installation and troubleshooting
- With expertice in the ff:
  - High and low cabling installation air and underground
- High and low voltage switchgear and automatic transfer switch
- Knowledge to interpret any schematic diagram

WORKSHOP MECHANIC

- Vocational graduate
- Expert in gen. repairs of gas/diesel engines driven vehicles, light and heavy equipments, omega, crane, grader, forklift and other.
- Vast knowledge in all workshop activities, including preventive and corrective maintenance

DIESEL MECHANIC (CENTRAL)

- B.S.M.E./Vocational graduate
- Expert in overhauling and diagnostic trouble
- Shooting, hydraulic control system
- Knowledgeable with use of special tools
- Expert in engine parts survey
- Preferably experienced in caterpillar generator
- Set and detroit diesel engine
- Well experienced in computerized diesel engine
- With knowledge to use laptop

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN

- Vocational graduate
- Actual experience in installation of diesel/gas generator sets, specialize in waukesha gas engines
- Actual experience in industrial electrical installation (gas refinery)
- Expert in high & low voltage cable pulling
- Installation of floors standing switch gear and power transformer
- Knowledgeable to interpret electrical schematic diagram and troubleshooting
- Trade test w/ national manpower or meralco foundation inst.

HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICIAN

- Vocational graduate
- Knowledgeable to repair all types of household machines and equipments

BLDG. ELECTRICIAN

- Vocational graduate
- Expert in piping layout emt. in mounting power distribution panel
- Vast knowledge to interpret civil work plan and electrical blue print
- With knowledge in (NEC) national electrical code
- To take trade test with national manpower or meralco foundation inst.

FINISHING CARPENTER

- Experienced in various kinds of building construction

PIPEFITTER/PLUMBER

- Experienced in industrial and domestic
- With actual experience in swimming pool piping etc.

TELECOM ENGINEER

- Experienced with motorola telecom (2) way radio system
- Expert in application, installation, troubleshooting, etc.
- Knowledgeable with telecom trunking system such as MPI 1327 & all types of radios

TELECOM TECHNICIAN

- Expert in microwave/satellite
- Experienced in application, installation, trouble shooting in all types of radios
- Expert in motorola telecom (2) way radio system
- Trunking system, trouble shooting repairs of all types of radios

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MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (ME)

- ☐ *male, 23-30 years old; BS Electrical/Mechanical Engineering graduate, preferably Licensed*
- ☐ *with at least 2 years work-related experience, knowledgeable in value engineering and cost estimate*
- ☐ *will be in-charge of store maintenance requirements (repair and preventive), store inspection, sourcing and evaluation of contractors, documentation and reporting*
- ☐ *willing and able to travel; knowledgeable in computer applications*

PROJECT ENGINEER (PE)

- ☐ *male, 24-28 years old; graduate of BS Civil Engineering or BS Architecture from a reputable school*
- ☐ *preferably Licensed*
- ☐ *with 2-4 years work-related experience (exposure on Quick Service Restaurant-QSR is a plus factor).*
- ☐ *will manage/administer construction of stores; must be computer-literate; willing and able to travel*

R&D SPECIALIST (RDS)

- ☐ *male or female, not more than 30 years old; graduate of BS Food Technology*
- ☐ *with at least two years experience in product development, particularly on meat (and poultry, optional) processing*
- ☐ *can work with minimum supervision; able to handle work pressures*
- ☐ *with good oral and written communication skills; must be computer-literate*

R&D TECHNICIAN (RDT)

- ☐ *male or female, 21-25 years old; graduate of BS Food Technology*
- ☐ *with knowledge/exposure in Sensory Evaluation and other food analytical tests*
- ☐ *with good oral and written communication skills; hardworking and flexible*
- ☐ *computer-literacy is an advantage*

STORE MANAGER (SM)

(San Fernando and Bulacan)

- ☐ *23-35 years old; graduate of a four-year business-related course*
- ☐ *with at least 2 years supervisory experience in food service*
- ☐ *articulate, success and people-oriented, works well under pressure, flexible and self-motivated*
- ☐ *will be responsible for high customer satisfaction, sales and profitability of a store*

ASSISTANT STORE MANAGER (ASM)

(Lipa Batangas, Gen. Trias, Bacoor and Dasmariñas Cavite, Baclaran, Pasay)

- ☐ *21-27 years old; graduate of a four-year business-related course*
- ☐ *will take charge of day–to-day store operations, administration and implementation of standard operating procedures*
- ☐ *articulate, people-oriented, flexible, willing to work on rotating shifts and a team player*
- ☐ *we invite fresh graduates who possess strong leadership qualities*

Interested parties should send their comprehensive resume with contact telephone number, recent 2x2 colored photo, and Transcript of Records to:

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(Previous applicants need not apply)

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Immediate requirements:

Training Manager

Preferably BS Computer Science/Engineering or Software Technology graduates
With at least 2 – 3 years related working experience in supervisory level in an IT industry
Preferably Project Management Institute (PMI) Certified
Preferably with Masters Degree
Must have practical experience and able to teach any of the following areas:
  Programming – HTML, Java, Java Script, VB, C++, C#, XML, Site Server, SQL, Websphere, Oracle
  Systems Administration – Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000, Sun Solaris, Linux, SQL Server administration, Oracle DBASE Administration
  Networking – Basic and advanced networking, networking design, setup, administration
Must be Vendor certified or at least be able to pass certification exams from: Microsoft, Sun, IBM, IGeneration, Oracle, IPlanet, RedHat Linux, Adobe, Cisco, Ericsson

Successful applicants may look forward to:

- Excellent compensation package
- Above industry standard benefits and incentives
- Off-shore IT / Management trainings
- Top-notch vendor training and certification program

Qualified applicants may send/email/fax their comprehensive resume, with one I.D. picture, stating details of job description and salary expectations or hand-carry resume to the address below:

ADMIN DEPT
Asia Online Academy
Now wholly-owned and operated by
Moravia Holdings Corp.
23/F IBM Plaza Building, Eastwood City Cyberpark
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 913-0741 Fax No.: (632) 913-0766
Email address: **Academy@AsiaOnline.net.ph**

Only short-listed candidates will be notified

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

by a leading multinational Japanese trading firm ITOCHU Corporation (formerly C. Itoh & Co. Ltd.) and its Group of Companies

MARKETING OFFICER

Requirements

- ✓ male or female, maximum 30 years old
- ✓ college degree graduate
- ✓ good interpersonal skills
- ✓ strong entrepreneurial desire and ability to spot business opportunities
- ✓ ability to speak Fookienese
- ✓ preferably with sales background in chemical industry
- ✓ good spoken and written English skills

Salary rates are negotiable. Please send your resumé with photo to:

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
MCC P.O. 2847
Makati 1299
or e-mail: baladad-j@mnl.itochu.co.jp

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LOGISTICS MANAGER

- ☐ Male/Female age ranging from 31 to 39 years old;
- ☐ College graduate preferably in Business Administration, Management or any Engineering course (with post-graduate units as an added advantage);
- ☐ Proficient in computers particularly in Microsoft and other window-based software;
- ☐ 5 years solid management experience in logistics/nationwide distribution of consumer durables;
- ☐ Sound experience in importation, customs procedures, and freight forwarding business;
- ☐ Excellent communication skills both in verbal and written form;
- ☐ Excellent planning skills, analytical, organized, decisive, with an eye for detail, proficient in math or numerical calculations;
- ☐ Assertive, results-driven and able to work well under pressure;
- ☐ Team-player, enthusiastic, and with good interpersonal skills.

We offer a very competitive compensation and benefits package and an exciting career in SONY. Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumés with a 2x2 ID picture, e-mail addresses and contact telephone numbers to:

The Office of the HR Director
(Position Code: cm-lm2001)
SONY PHILIPPINES INC.
26th Floor Tower 1, The Enterprise Center Building
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas
Makati City
or
E-mail your resumé to enealega@sony.com.ph (no attachments please)

We will only contact qualified candidates.

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ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Required Profile:

- ▫ At least 26 years old with 3 to 5 years sales experience in the following industries: Telecoms, Information Technology and Banking.
- ▫ Above average computer literacy (knowledge of MS applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- ▫ Ability to create business/cost analyses and sales proposals for institutional or corporate clientele.
- ▫ Excellent platform skills with ability to conduct business presentations to senior executives of corporate clients.
- ▫ Proven track record in negotiating medium to high portfolio transactions and closing the same.
- ▫ Experience in dealing with top 500 companies is a definite advantage.

Interested candidates must send Curriculum Vitae with 2x2 colored picture not later than March 21, 2001 to:

SM Box No. 5000
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: MEGA-BOX NO. 5000)

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A Multi-national Company is looking for a Law Firm and/or Collection Agency which will handle its portfolio of delinquent accounts. They must have experience in handling judicial and extra-judicial collections of consumer loans and must possess a strong field collections group. Please send your company profile to **PO Box 3004, Makati Central Post Office, 1229 Makati, Metro Manila** and attention it to the **COLLECTIONS MANAGER.**

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SPI
TECHNOLOGIES INC.

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Due to its continued expansion, we are now accepting applications for the following positions:

(3)SENIOR PROGRAMMER

Graduate of a 4 or 5 year computer course • 2-3 years programming experience in any of the ff. languages: Visual Basic 6.0, C++, Java, Perl • Able to take projects from their inception to implementation including analysis, specification, prototyping, development, testing and implementation • Possibly having some experience with managing programming staff with a view to taking a senior position in the IT department • Knowledge in web design and programming, a must • Familiar with SQL Server, DOS, NT Windows 95/98, UNIX/LINUX environments

BLDG. MAINTENANCE SUPV.

Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer • 3 years experience in managing the operations, maintenance and repair of equipment and facilities of a plant, office, hotel or commercial establishment with 250 to 500 kw capacity (i.e. generator set, centralized and room air conditioning system, electrical power system, plumbing, pumps, and motors) • Fundamental knowledge in company-wide safety and fire prevention programs • Good command of English language

SENIOR LOGISTICS STAFF

Graduate of any of the ff. courses: Industrial Engineering / Mathematics / Economics / Statistics / Computer Science • Knowledge and experience in SAP-PP and SAP-MM • Adept in statistical and financial analysis • 1 year experience in production scheduling or equivalent work experience is preferred • Able to communicate well with different levels in the organization (oral and written English) • Technical knowledge in value-added data conversion is highly desirable

Interested applicants are requested to send or e-mail their comprehensive CV or resumé (with contact number and recent photo) to:

THE RECRUITMENT OFFICE
SPI Bldg., Pascor Drive, Sto. Niño, P'que City 1700
(behind Casino Filipino Bldg., formerly Duty Free Shopping Center)
e-mail: recruitment@spitech.com
WWW: http://www.spitech.com

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infiniteinfo

Total eAsset Management™

Infiniteinfo is an award winning international interactive media company founded in 1994. Its Total eAsset Management (TeAM) services deliver comprehensive solutions for cost effectively designing, building, managing, testing and marketing web and broadband applications. We have extensive experience in advanced Internet site development, e-commerce, intranets, extranets, CD-ROM development, multimedia presentations and touch screen kiosks. Infiniteinfo has leveraged its global presence to help hundreds of clients from established multinationals to emerging dot-coms achieve greater profitability on the web. Infiniteinfo is a rapidly growing company with offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, and Manila.

(1) QA Department Head

- Lead the QA Department by providing day-to-day management of the group, especially resource allocation and project status oversight.
- Develop QA systems and processes for internal and client projects.

Qualifications:
- At least a Bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field from a reputable school
- With supervisory experience in web or systems inspection and testing of at least 2 years, or at least 3 to 4 years work experience from a progressive technology firm, 2 years of which is in a junior Managerial capacity under QA/QC fields.
- Extensive expertise in Quality Management Systems and Process Control.
- With business development capabilities, in preparation for managing the QA group as a profit-generating unit.

(1) System Analyst (to be assigned in San Francisco, USA)

- Lead the analysis/design phase of projects by translating business requirements into a solid technical model.
- Work with end-users and managers to be able to understand business requirements and provide guidance for system architecture selection.
- Work closely with team members to interface with clients, analyze needs, and develop functional and technical specifications.
- Provide assistance in programming for different projects.
- Perform systems integration work that may require presence at the client-site.
- Provide sales support to pre-sales efforts by adding credibility to the process and demonstrating proven experience with business level concepts and technical solutions.
- Troubleshoot any technical problems that may occur on a day-to-day basis.

Qualifications:
- At least a Bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field from a reputable school.
- Demonstrable understanding of strategic level business processes, definition/documentation, analysis and design, UI design, and testing.
- Extensive knowledge and experience with various web technologies.
- Expert knowledge of multiple technology areas: systems integration, database design, object oriented design, database performance evaluation, web page design, dynamic web content generation, content management, data warehousing, mission critical site administration, wide area and local area networking and software development.

(1) Database Programmer/Analyst

- Perform database planning and design including defining database specifications, system architecture, platform selection, and data models.
- Conduct design and implementation of stored procedures, triggers, and other database objects according to technical specifications.
- Design, maintain and support the activities pertaining to database management, security, maintenance, and use.

Qualifications:
- At least a Bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field from a reputable school.
- Strong skills in database design, development, tuning, and administration.
- Extensive knowledge of various databases: Oracle (PL/SQL), Postgres, MySQL, Illustra, MS SQL Server, etc.
- Knowledge of web development a plus.

(10) Independent Interactive Media Consultant

- Will manage own time and income in consulting with clients and prospects regarding their interactive media requirements.
- Assess the clients' and prospects' requirements and propose courses of action to address their requirements.

Qualifications:
- At least a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Marketing, Mass Communication, or any related course from a reputable school. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Must be computer literate and have excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must be able to accomplish objectives with little supervision.
- Previous work in a similar capacity is a plus, but we are willing to train individuals with potential.

Interested parties may send their resume to

hr_ip@infiniteinfo.com
Infiniteinfo Global Production Unit
4/F Page 1 Bldg., 1215 Acacia Ave.
Madrigal Business Park, Alabang
Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila (1770)

w w w.infiniteinfo.com

TRICOM

The TRICOM Group is composed of **TRICOM Systems (Philippines), Inc. (TSPI)** and **TRICOM Dynamics, Inc. (TDI)**.

TRICOM Systems was established in September 1989. TSPI is engaged in the distribution of an extensive range of telecommunication products such as PABX systems (FUJITSU and IWATSU), Voice Mail Systems, as well as CCTV and Security Systems. TSPI also provides Structured Cabling/Housewiring services.

TRICOM Dynamics, Inc. was launched in September 1991. TDI offers a comprehensive line of TOSHIBA Information and Communication Systems and is the exclusive distributor of TOSHIBA Copiers, Multifunction Facsimile Machines and Notebook PCs. With world-class TOSHIBA products, Tricom Dynamics is able to integrate the one-stop shop and full customer service concepts.

In line with our expansion program, we need young, assertive and dynamic individuals for the following positions:

CEBU BRANCH MANAGER

(who will be in charge of the Company's Visayas Operations)

- Extensive experience in marketing, sales and business administration (in the same line of business preferred, but not required).
- Ability to conceptualize and implement marketing plans and strategies
- Strong drive and determination for growth, efficiency and profit
- MBM degree holder preferred, but not required
- Resident of Cebu; Those who plan to relocate to Cebu may also apply
- Proficiency in the Cebuano dialect would be an advantage

IT APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years of age
- Graduate of any computer-related course from a reputable school
- With experience in project management, and programming client/server SQL-based systems
- Knowledge of python, HTML an advantage
- Highly analytical; Self-motivated; with patience for detail

SR. SALES EXECUTIVES (for Avaya Communication Products)

- Male/Female, not more than 32 years of age
- Graduate of any Business or Engineering course
- Excellent communication skills; pleasant personality and with strong persuasive abilities
- Minimum 2 years work experience in Sales, preferably handling similar product line
- Hardworking, energetic and results-oriented
- Determined to pursue a career in sales

SALES EXECUTIVES (for Fujitsu and Iwatsu PABX Systems)

- Male/Female, not more than 32 years of age
- Graduate of a 4-year course from a reputable school
- Minimum 1 year work experience in Sales, preferably handling similar product line
- Excellent communication skills; pleasant personality and with strong persuasive abilities
- Determined to pursue a career in sales

SALES EXECUTIVES (for Toshiba Notebook PCs) *

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of a 4-year course from a reputable school
- Excellent communication skills; pleasant personality and with strong persuasive abilities
- Determined to pursue a career in sales

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS STAFF *

- Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Marketing graduate from a reputable school
- Articulate, creative, hardworking, energetic and results-oriented
- Computer literate

** FRESH GRADUATES are encouraged to apply*

The TRICOM Group has a complement of over 250 officers and staff, and offers a compensation and benefits package above industry standards. Successful applicants can look forward to benefits such as life and accident insurance coverage, health maintenance and hospitalization coverage, productivity bonus, free uniforms, etc.

Interested applicants can send their resumé, transcript of records, recent photo, and contact phone numbers to:

Personnel Department, TRICOM
2/F Metro House, 345 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Or send your resumé (.txt, rtf or html format, not doc)
via e-mail to: hr@tricom.com.ph

HONDA CARS QUEZON CITY, INC.

A Yuchengco Group of Companies

The leader among franchised Honda dealers is expanding its operations with the opening of Fairview and Marikina branches. We need top-notch, dynamic and result-oriented individuals to fill vacant positions in these branches:

CREDIT & COLLECTION SUPERVISOR:

- Two (2) years supervisory experience in Credit & Collection or Documentation in a major bank or car dealership
- Graduate of Accountancy
- With above-average leadership potential, hardworking and trustworthy.

SALES EXECUTIVES:

- Marketing or any college course graduate
- Good oral and written communication skills, with pleasing personality
- Aggressive and hardworking
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

JUNIOR PROGRAMMERS:

- Graduate of Computer Application, Information Technology, Management Information System or Computer Science
- Familiar in Systems Development Design, using ORACLE, SQL and PROGRESS
- Related work experience is a plus

ACCOUNTING STAFF/BOOKEEPER

- Accounting graduate with good scholastic record.
- At least (1) year related work experience from a major bank or car dealership.
- Hardworking, flexible, and could work with a minimum supervision.
- Highly computer literate.

DOCUMENTATION/INVOICING CLERK:

- College graduate of any business course or equivalent
- Related work experience from a car dealership or banking industry.
- Highly computer literate

PARTS INVENTORY CLERK:

- College graduate of any business course or equivalent
- Preferably (2) years experience in automobile industry.
- Computer literate and knowledgeable in auto parts catalogue

ADMINISTRATIVE/ PURCHASING STAFF:

- Business/Management graduate or equivalent
- Exposure in admin-related operations and purchasing is preferred
- Computer literate

BLDG. MAINTENANCE STAFF:

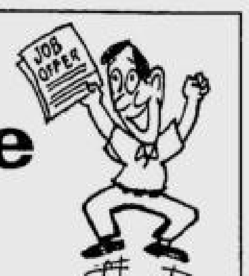
- Graduate of Technical or Engineering course with emphasis in electrical and over-all building maintenance
- Knowledge in basic electrical troubleshooting and/or engineering.

COLLECTOR/MESSENGER:

- Attained at least 2nd year college
- Can drive a motorcycle or any 4-wheeled vehicles.
- With valid professional driver's license

Interested applicants may personally come or send in their resumé with 2x2 colored picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
HONDA CARS QUEZON CITY, INC.
141 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Fax 712-6945
Email add: hcqc-hrd@compass.com.ph



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- With experience as a teacher or trainer
- Willing to travel

Above-industry compensation package and a progressive career await successful candidates.

Please submit your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and recent 2x2 photo to:

Ms. Lavinia M. Ebarle
Operations Manager
EduQuest, Inc.
5F Asia Pacific College
3 Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City
e-mail: bebetme@mail.apc.edu.ph
Fax: 852-5838
Tel. # 853-05-35 loc. 616, 853-05-24

IBM EQUICOM

Habitat for Humanity International — Asia Pacific

Building houses in partnership with God's people in need

Habitat For Humanity International (HFHI), a Christian, faith based International NGO, with an Area Office in Bangkok and Regional Offices in Manila, New Delhi and Sydney, directs Habitat's house building program in 20 countries including 11 in the East and Southeast Asia Region. We seek to fill the following positions in or reporting to, our Manila Regional Office. We are looking for candidates who are:

☐ Willing to affirm and communicate the Christian roots and principles of HFHI.
☐ Well skilled in group facilitation and problem solving.
☐ At their best working in a collegial and flexible environment.
☐ Excellent communicators.
☐ University Graduates.
Local language skills would be an advantage for all candidates.

COUNTRY PROGRAM DEVELOPERS

(Cambodia and China)

Will work closely with key local community leaders to develop strong organizations committed to the HFHI model of house building and community development, applying HFHI's tested practices and training methods. The positions will appeal to those with a background in training or management and who:

☐ Enjoy working independently.
☐ Have experience in community or program development.

GLOBAL VILLAGE COORDINATOR

Will be the key regional liaison for a very successful HFHI program which recruits volunteers to travel to different countries to help families build their homes and to contribute financially. Will recruit and train local staff to receive volunteer building teams from other countries; will be expected to expand current programs. The position will appeal to those who:

☐ Are good organizers.
☐ Are able to work with minimal supervision.
☐ Have word processing, spread sheet, Internet and database program skills.
☐ Have some experience in budgeting.

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Will lead in developing grant writing and monitoring capacity in National Organizations and will market grants to broaden the funding base. The position will appeal to those who have:

☐ Grant writing and negotiating experience.
☐ Advanced skills in word processing, spread sheet, Internet and database programs

REGIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPER

Will lead in establishing regional development and funding strategies for new country and national organizations. The position will appeal to those who have:

☐ 5 years experience in community development.
☐ Experience managing budgets
☐ Supervisory experience.

Please reply by e-mail, fax or mail.
manachat@hfhap.org
Fax: 638-4133
Habitat For Humanity International—East and SouthEast Asia Regional Office
Unit 2503 Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. The deadline for applications is April 9th.

MANAGERIAL

IRRI
INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Join the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), an autonomous, non-profit, agricultural research and training center and have the opportunity to live in Los Baños, Laguna and help some of the world's top agricultural scientists in their efforts to meet the food needs of the 21st century.

The Office of Administration & Human Resources (DAHR) invites applications for the position of:

Senior Manager, Materials Management

Candidates should have:

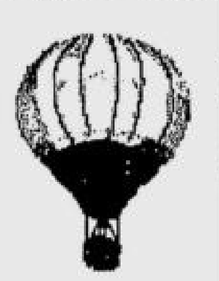
○ Master's degree or equivalent experience;
○ At least 10 years relevant experience in a managerial capacity, either in materials management or in a related entity;
○ Experience in all aspects of purchasing and Materials Management and control functions;
○ Excellent oral and written communication skills:
○ Experience in managing and training Materials Management personnel;
○ Diplomatic and negotiating skills, for dealing with local and international vendors, government agencies, and the like;
○ Well-established service attitude and commitment to responding quickly to client needs
○ Experience in strategic planning and in implementing change;
○ Some familiarity with the role of IT in purchasing, administration, and so on.
○ Unimpeachable personal integrity;

➢ ***Reporting to the Director for Administration & Human Resources, the successful candidate will:***

✓ Represent the Institute in negotiations with external agencies and suppliers, while upholding IRRI's good name.
✓ Be responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the overall implementation of Materials Management functions to include materials forecasting, purchasing, delivery, storage, distribution, inventory, asset control and disposal of the Institute's expendable and non-expendable materials, supplies and other properties.
✓ Be responsible for the management of four sub-units: Purchasing, Warehouse and Inventory Control, Shipping and Receiving, and Property Disposal.
✓ Be responsible for the organization, training, supervision and motivation of all materials management staff to achieve maximum performance and growth within the organization.
✓ Be responsible for the formulation and implementation of Materials Management policies and guidelines, reviews and updates such policies and guidelines when conditions warrant such changes.
✓ Oversee the purchasing functions to ensure materials availability at the lowest cost while maintaining minimum inventory levels, to support the Institute's various programs and activities.
✓ Oversee the shipping functions and coordinate with other offices and agencies to ensure the immediate clearance of incoming and outgoing shipments of the Institute as well as personal effects of foreign personnel.
✓ Handle official affairs with various government agencies (Department of Foreign Affairs, Bureau of Customs, NAIA, Department of Finance and other agencies) in expediting the approval/release of IRRI's incoming and outgoing shipments.
✓ Be responsible for the segregation and disposal of the Institute's obsolete/scrap and surplus materials and equipment for periodic disposal sales of such to outside bidders.
✓ Be responsible for maintaining effective working relationships between Materials Management and related depts, such as General Accounting; Property and Assets, and others.

➢ Qualified applicants will be notified by telegram, e-mail or by phone.
➢ Place of Assignment : Los Baños, Laguna
✓ Interested applicants should send their resumé, application letter, transcript of records, three references, and a recent 2x2-inch photo no later than 30 March 2001.

International Rice Research Institute
Human Resource Development
DAPO Box 7777
Metro Manila
Fax: 891-1292 or 845-0606
E-mail: e.revilla@cgiar.org



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FILIPINO SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS, INC.

A non-stock, non-profit association of music composers, lyricists and publishers engaged in the collective administration of copyright is urgently in need of the following personnel:

1. ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

The appointee shall assist the General Manager in the administration of rights vested in FILSCAP by its local members as well as its affiliated foreign societies worldwide. He/she shall be actively involved in all major activities of the Society which shall include but not be limited to a) the licensing of music users; b) the administration of the Society's extensive musical repertoire; c) the distribution of royalties to FILSCAP members and foreign affiliated societies and, d) the management of FILSCAP'S day-to-day operations.

Interested applicants must have a professional degree, preferably in the fields of Business Administration, Law or Accountancy, and must have at least seven (7) years work experience. They must be highly motivated, people-oriented, articulate and mature, preferably with proven negotiation skills.

2. ROYALTY MANAGER/FINANCE OFFICER

The appointee shall manage the financial affairs of the Society, including the payment of royalties to FILSCAP members and foreign affiliates.

He/she will also be responsible for maintaining and updating the FILSCAP Database of Musical Works, which electronically stores the musical works administered by the Society and information on royalties paid to copyright owners represented by the Society.

Interested applicants must have a professional degree in Accountancy, preferably a CPA. They must have working knowledge and experience in operating database programs like Windows NT, Oracle, MS Sequel, etc. Applicants must have at least five (5) years working experience involving accounting and/or database management.

3. LEGAL ASSISTANT

The appointee shall assist the FILSCAP Legal Counsel in the enforcement of the copyrights of FILSCAP members and foreign affiliates including the preparation and follow-up of notification, demand for payment and collection letters; the gathering of evidences attendant to the filing of copyright infringement cases; and, the monitoring of unauthorized uses of FILSCAP-controlled musical works, among others.

Interested applicants must have a Bachelor's degree, preferably in the preparatory courses to Law. He/she must have good communication skills and must be computer literate. No prior experience is required.

All appointees will undergo a period of training, which will include training abroad for the Assistant General Manager and the Royalty Manager/Finance Officer.

We offer an attractive remuneration package for the successful applicants. We invite interested applicants to write to the following address with detailed resumé and a passport-size photo (non-returnable):

FILSCAP, Inc.
1365 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 721-3903; 721-3768; 411-1115
Fax No. 722-9450; E-mail: ditadeo@filscap.com.ph

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webservasia.com

We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:

Training Manager (Code: EA)

The candidate will be responsible in designing, developing and implementing of all professional development programs of the company. The position requires a minimum of 5 years experience as Technical Trainer acquired from a service industry, 2 years of which must be in a managerial capacity. Must have a firm grasp in needs assessment and interpreting the same to develop client-specific and professional enhancement training modules. Experience in Customer Relation Management (CRM) is a definite advantage.

Account Manager (Code: AM)

The candidate will be responsible in planning, directing and implementing business initiatives of the company. The ideal candidate must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in a service or IT industry. The position requires a minimum of 3 years progressive experience in account management. The candidate must have an MBA degree from any of the following institutions, AIM/Ateneo/UP/DLSU. Must have strong analytical/mathematical and interpersonal skills. Persons between twenty-five and thirty years of age are preferred

Production Analyst (Code: PA)

The candidate will be responsible in collating raw data from the customer care specialists' reports and interprets the same to measure productivity and establish quality standards. Must have strong analytical skill. The candidate must be a University graduate with the degree in BS Computer Science or Engineering. Must be proficient in the use of Visual Basic, Microsoft Access and Excel. Persons must be between twenty and twenty-seven years of age.

Shift Supervisor (Code: SS)

The candidate will be responsible in managing the schedules of the customer care specialists and is expected to ensure high productivity by monitoring client service level in real time. The ideal candidate must possess excellent leadership and problem solving skills. Must have strong foundation in providing customer support focusing on voice/telephony as the medium. Must be a University graduate with the degree in Communication Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies. Persons must be between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; and are willing to work on shifts. Experience in CRM an advantage.

LAN Tech Engineer (Code: LTE)

The candidate will be responsible for the installation, monitoring, maintenance and troubleshooting of computer peripherals and workstations. The candidate must have a strong foundation in providing technical support (hardware/software); proficient in LAN/WAN, Client Server and Windows NT environment. Must be a Microsoft Certified Professional. A university degree holder in BS Computer Science/Engineering. Persons must be between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; and must be willing to work on shifts.

Office Administrator (Code: Admin)

The position requires extensive knowledge in office administration. The candidate must have a strong grasp in dealing with vendors in relation to supplies canvassing and procurement. Must be knowledgeable in storage and inventory of company assets, and site maintenance (security/janitorial). The position requires a minimum of 2 years experience in building/office administration and asset management. He must posses above average interpersonal and communication skills. Persons between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age are preferred.

Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited.

The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are Internet savvy college graduates; can speak the American language with above average accent and tonal quality; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work on shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry is a definite advantage.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

WEBSERVASIA
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com
Fax No: 911-8854
"Real People for your Customers all the time"

BACOLOD CONVENTION PLAZA HOTEL

IMMEDIATELY NEEDS

MANILA SALES OFFICER

- Female, 29-35 years old; computer literate
- At least 3 years Sales and Mktg. Supervisory experience
- Will receive competitive salary+allowances, service charge and incentives

MLA. SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Female, 25-33 years old
- At least 1 year Sales and Marketing experience
- Highly motivated, results-oriented

Submit application letter, resumé and transcript of records to:

Unit 1218 Cityland Herrera Tower
98 Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village
Makati City
Telefax: 892-9184

MANAGERIAL

Mc Graw Hill

McGraw-Hill Book Co., the global leader in professional publishing for business, government, industry and medical markets invites suitable candidates for the position of:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The above position will report to the Regional Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for the marketing and promotion of higher education, school and medical titles.

REQUIREMENTS

- Male or female
- Business or Business-related graduates with minimum 2 years of selling/ marketing experience in Information Technology or Information Communication Technology (either hardware or software) in Manila area
- Has initiative and able to work under minimum supervision
- Aggressive and able to work under pressure
- Highly-motivated, self-starter and a team player
- Must be willing to work overtime
- Fluent in English with good oral and written skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Possesses own car with valid driver's license

BENEFITS

We offer an attractive remuneration and benefits package including training, overseas conference trips, car plan and opportunities to grow with the company.

All applicants will be treated in strict confidence.
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

Please submit your resumé with recent colored photo along with your salary history and expectation before March 31, 2001 to:

The Regional Manager
McGraw-Hill IEI (Phils.)
Unit 1503 Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Avenue corner Ruby Street
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: mghphils@mcgraw-hill.com.ph
Website: www.asia-mcgraw-hill.com.sg

Please do not hand-carry your application.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

UBX

U-BIX CORPORATION, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---

TRANSPORT & WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR
(PDI-T&W)

- Male, college graduate preferably of Industrial Engineering, not over 35 years old
- At least 3 years experience in the same capacity
- Able to analyze and control delivery expenses
- Must be mature, systematic, with excellent coordinating skills

ACCOUNTANTS
(PDI-ACT)

- CPA, with at least 2 years supervisory experience
- With expertise in general accounting and knowledge in tax compliance report
- Ability to excel in a fast-paced environment
- Not over 30 years old

HRD ASSISTANT
(PDI-HRA)

- Graduate of Psychology or any Behavioral Science course; not more than 24 years old
- At least one year work experience, preferably in Recruitment and / or Training
- With excellent communication skills and basic understanding of organizational setup
- Must be mature, broad-minded and highly organized

AUDITORS
(PDI-AUD)

- CPA, not over 30 years old
- With at least one year experience in systems and operations audit
- Willing to do fieldwork and handle provincial assignments
- Preferably living in Parañaque, Las Piñas and other areas in the south

COLLECTORS
(PDI-COL)

- Must be college graduates, with good scholastic standing
- With at least one year field collection experience
- Honest, self-disciplined and hardworking
- Not over 28 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resumes and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

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ALASKA®

ALASKA MILK CORPORATION

urgently needs

FINANCIAL/CORPORATE PLANNING MANAGER

- ■ At least 5 years relevant experience in a manufacturing company, particularly in the areas of strategic planning, budgeting, management accounting, project/industry studies and financial/operations analysis
- ■ Unquestionable integrity; hands on/hardworking
- ■ Strong leadership abilities; excellent communication skills
- ■ MBA/CPA preferred; computer proficient

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo and desired salary to:

HRD MANAGER
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION
6/F Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1226
or email to
tita_trovela@alaskamilk.com.ph

UBX

U-BIX CORPORATION, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---

AVP - SALES & MARKETING
(PDI-AVPS)

- Must have MBA degree or units
- At least 6 years experience in marketing (product positioning)
- Exhibits competence in overall marketing programs: analysis of competitive products, promotional activities, efficient sales forecasting
- Demonstrates supervisory and organizational skills, as well as personal sales ability

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
(PDI-SR)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who can stand challenges

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS
(PDI-CSO)

- Graduates from country's top universities; with degree in marketing or any business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable individuals; having business writing skills is an advantage
- Must be responsible, persevering and mature; not over 25 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

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We are an affiliate of a world-wide training and consulting organization providing results-oriented training and consulting services to Fortune 500 companies and top Philippine organizations. We have an immediate opening for:

Account Development Managers

Who

- *Can plan, organize and implement account development strategies to achieve business results;*
- *Can capitalize and leverage new business opportunities for account development;*
- *Can be a differentiating feature of doing business through superior consulting and value-added services, as well as being a delivery resource;*
- *Can become an expert business consultant for sales, customer service and organization development training systems.*

The candidates we seek should have:

- *A minimum of 5 years sales and/or account development experience;*
- *A college degree, preferably from a reputable university;*
- *Track record in sales and account development*
- *Excellent communication skills (a must).*

To the successful applicants, we offer:

- *A competitive compensation package, plus a sales incentive and bonus plan;*
- *A car plan;*
- *Opportunities to acquire skills for professional selling, account development, customer service, leadership & teamwork and,*
- *Opportunity to grow with the organization.*

Please mail, fax or e-mail your resume and recent 2x2 photo to:

AG Phils. Inc. Unit 714 Globe Telecom Plaza
Madison cor. Pioneer Streets, Mandaluyong City
Fax 638.6990 e-mail: meginc@mkt. weblinq.com

Email: sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: MG-AG

JUPITER COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS LTD

Auckland, New Zealand

- If you have a vast experience in System Programming, Web Development, and IT Solutions such as JAVA, Linux, UNIX Developer & SCripting, VB/SQL Server System, C++ Developer, DB2/DBA, Dephi/Java, ITP/IP, PDH, ATM, SDH, CISCO, Cobra, RIP/OPSF, PC/LAN, Oracle Dev 2000, MIS Development, LAN/ WAN, Cold Fusion, System Analyst and other system programming and internet related expertise.
- Have strong IT portfolio.
- Can work with a fast pace environment.
- And can relocate immediately to New Zealand.

We would like to hear from you.
Send your Curriculum Vitaé to:

Jojo Velasco
Executive Manager
Jupiter Computer Appointments Ltd

E-mail address: **jcappointments@xtra.co.nz**
jojo@jcappointments.com

MARIA MONTESSORI
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.

The **MONTESSORI SCHOOL** in **PASAY CITY** is in need of young persons to work as a

Teacher's Assistant

If you are:

- a graduate of a four year college course
- 21 to 35 years old
- physically fit
- computer literate
- fluent in written and spoken English
- patient, self-confident, hardworking
- appreciative of young children
- willing to work under the direct supervision of an adult in the daily preparation and activities of the classroom
- excited by the challenges and opportunities of alternative education then our school may be the place for you to put your skills and talents to use.

We are also looking to hire a qualified person to work with the faculty in preparing individual programs for children with special needs. If you possess the qualifications and characteristics described above and are a Special Education major as well, then we invite you to consider working at our school.

Please write a letter of intent, stating the position for which you are applying, and your contact numbers. Address your letter to:

The Head Directress
Maria Montessori Children's School Foundation, Inc.
Pasay City 1300

Should you be considered for a preliminary interview, you will be called regarding your interview schedule and the requirements you will need to submit.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

CREDIT AND COLLECTION CLERK

• College graduate • Knowledge of basic computer operations • With good interpersonal skills •

Interested applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resumé and a 1x1 picture on or before Friday, **March 23, 2001** to:

HR Management Services Head
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo St.) cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City
or e-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

Stores Specialists, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (R-MCM)

- At least 30 years old.
- Graduate of Marketing, Communication Arts, Advertising or Public Relations from a reputable institution.
- With at least three (3) years experience in advertising and promotions work in a managerial capacity.
- Preferably with exposure in visual merchandising.
- With extensive dealing with the press.
- Possesses an exceptional fluency in both oral and written communication.
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- Must be creative, resourceful, flexible and a good team player.

VISUAL MERCHANDISING DIVISION ASSISTANT (R-VMDA)

- Between 24 to 30 years old.
- Graduate of Fine Arts or any (4) four-year related course from a reputable institution.
- Preferably with (1) one year work experience in the same field of specialization.
- Must have the capacity and energy for overtime work.
- Must be computer literate (MAC-based).

PERSONAL SHOPPER & CUSTOMER DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS (R-PSCD)

- Female, 26 to 40 years old.
- Graduate of a 4-year course from a reputable institution.
- Preferably with work experience in store operations.
- Must have excellent communication skills and customer-oriented.
- Must be willing to work during weekends and holidays.
- Must possess a pleasing personality and dynamic personality.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER (R-A/P)

- Between 28 to 35 years old.
- Graduate of BS degree, preferably in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Engineering or other related course.
- Extensive knowledge in computer programming, systems design and analysis.
- Must be proficient on the following:
    - AS/400, SQL/400, CL/400, IDA, UNIX, INFORMIX, ORACLE, PARADOX, VISUAL FOXPRO, GSA Programming.
- Relevant training in Information Technology environment is an advantage (at least one (1) year as Systems Analyst/Programmer, Networking Staff or Computer Operator).
- Must have strong analytical and interpersonal skills.
- Must possess high aptitude and intelligence.
- Must have excellent verbal, written and presentation skills.
- Must be creative, resourceful, flexible and a good team player.

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS (R-HRS)

- Female, between 24 to 30 years old.
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or any related course.
- With at least (1) one year work experience in the same field.
- Must be flexible and able to deal well with all levels of organization.
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays.
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- Must be computer literate.

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo through mail to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Male or Female. Graduate of BS Accountancy;
- At least 1 year experience with regards to processing of claims, reimbursements in an insurance, pre need or HMO company;
- Must be computer literate. With strong leadership skills.

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

- Female. With or without experience;
- Must be proficient in windows based application.

REGISTERED NURSES

- Male or Female. At least 22 years old.
- With at least six months to one year experience preferably gained in a hospital or HMO setting;
- With above average communication skills. Must be computer literate.

REGISTERED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Female. At least 22 years of age;
- With at least 6 months experience;
- Computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

BOX MK-58, Philippine Daily Inquirer,
c/o Classified Ads Division, Unit III-A Atrium of Makati,
Makati Avenue, Makati City
or e-mail us at career_mpi@hotmail.com

SYKES℠

Real People. Real Solutions.

Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.

Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Sykes has over 14,000 employees and operates 39 customer support centers, four e-commerce fulfillment centers, and 17 branch offices throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

MANDARIN/CANTONESE LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS

Providing world-class customer service to our partners from the Asia Pacific Region, the Consultant shall provide language (Mandarin/Cantonese) support to its clients.

Qualified applicants must have excellent written and spoken Mandarin/Cantonese language skills, working knowledge with the different Operating Systems (Windows 98/2000, NT, etc.), familiarity with Mac and the different Microsoft Applications and Internet. Also, applicants should have excellent customer service orientation. This consultancy position is for a fixed-term contract with a consultancy rate of Php 30,000.00.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé via e-mail to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com or mail it to **4F SMPC Building, St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.**

Stores Specialists, Inc.

Urgently needs...

AUDIT ANALYST (AA-001)

- Male/Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- B.S. Industrial Engineering graduate, must be computer literate
- Preferably with experience in Industrial Engineering work
- With dynamic personality

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES STAFF (FMS-001)

- Male, between 22 to 28 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Preferably with related work experience
- Must be computer literate
- With experience in import/export documentation

SALES ASSOCIATES (SA-001)

- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS (BC-001)

- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience
- With good communication skills

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Personnel Department,
4th Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Please indicate position codes.

Z18 cyber The XML People

Z18 Cyber, Ltd. a U.S. technology company with Asia and global market is currently looking for you to join our fast growing team.

Web Programmer

HTML, Javascript, ASP, T-SQL, Java, XML, Perl, Access, C++, VB

Web Designer

Photoshop, DreamWeaver, Flash, HTML, Java, Freehand, 3D StudioMax

Secretary

Excellent communication in English

Translator

Chinese, Thai, Korean, Malay

Accountant

Marketing Asst.

Data Encoder

Please send resume with photo and
expected salary to:
General Manager
P.O.Box 2873
Makati Central Post Office
Makati City 1268 Philippines
email resume to:
RESUME@Z18CYBER.COM

We are presently in search of qualified professionals to work as:

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Accounting major
- Single, not more than 28 years old
- Computer literate
- Preferably with related work experience

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- Journalism/Education/Comm. Arts graduate
- Single, not more than 28 years old
- Computer literate (preferably MAC applications)

Interested applicants apply at:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Simoun Street corner Don Pepe Street, Quezon City
(near Sto. Domingo Church)
Contact Harvey at 712-2722 / 712-3052

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TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

JAGUAR

JAGUAR CARS, INC. gives you an opportunity to sell one of the finest cars in the world.

If you are highly motivated, hard working, dynamic, mature, result-oriented, an experienced car sales person (with an extensive network of VIP clients) and interested to sell JAGUAR, we are now hiring.

SALES EXECUTIVES

You may apply in person from
Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at
JAGUAR CARS, INC.
ENZO Bldg., G/F 399 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Tel. No. 897-8888 Fax. 895-2677

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

— For Maintenance and Operation of Plastic

EQUIPMENT

1) Experience in maintenance of plastics machines especially in Extruders is required.
2) Good moral character and good aptitude

Please MAIL resumé with picture to:

SM Box 4000-Engineer
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F SM Megamall Bldg. B
Mandaluyong City

MY International Manpower Corporation

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NEEDS (IT) ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS, ANALYSTS AND DEVELOPERS.

Our clients are some of the leading technology companies in the areas of strategic software products and services, telecommunication service providers or semiconductors.

To keep pace with their requirements, we are inviting suitable candidates. If you are interested, submit your resumé to MY INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER CORPORATION at:

Iloilo Main Office: **DOYO BUILDING HUERVANA DIVINA GRACIA ST., LAPAZ ILOILO with Tel. No.: (033) 3207471 and (033) 5094769 Email: myintlcorp@skyinet.net**

Manila Branch Office: **2ND FLOOR 7A ARQUIZA TRADE CENTER, AQUIZA ST., COR. M.H. DEL PILAR ST., ERMITA, MANILA, with Tel. No.: 3022561 and 3022548. Email: myimc@i-manila.com.ph**

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITER

British Embassy Manila

The British Embassy's Commercial Section, Trade Partners UK, promotes British commercial interests, exports and two way investment in the Philippines. We work closely with a wide range of business contacts, business support organisations and government officials both here and in the United Kingdom.

We seek a **Commercial Assistant** to join our team. Applicants should be university graduates with a good degree majoring in economics or business. Further requirements include a strong command of written and oral English, good representational/organisational skills and an outgoing, confident personality.

Starting salary is Pesos 16,919 net monthly plus benefits, incrementally rising to Pesos 26,807 over twelve years.

Interested parties should submit a hand written application letter, curriculum vitaé, a copy of university transcript of records and 2x2 photograph placed in a long brown envelope addressed to:

Management Officer (CA)
British Embassy
17/f LV Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

Applications must be received on or before 12 noon, 21 March 2001.
Only successful candidates will be notified.
Strictly no enquiries by telephone, please.

Your connection to better people, better jobs.

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CLAIMS OFFICER

- Graduate of a Business Course;
- Computer Literate, with good interpersonal skills;
- Knowledge in determining marine and cargo claims;
- Knowledge in interpretation of insurance policy.

VESSEL PLANNERS

- Graduate of Engineering / Computer Science / Information Technology course;
- With at least 2 years experience in IT driven operations;
- Must be aggressive, dynamic and hardworking, with good communication skills and planning capabilities.

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS

- Graduate of a business course;
- Logistics experience from a multinational manufacturing or freight forwarding organization;
- Fluent in oral and written English;
- Flexible, willing to work long hours;
- Willing to work in Laguna.

Please send application letter, resume with 2x2 photo and transcript of records on or before March 23, 2001 to:
The Human Resources Department Asian Terminals, Incorporated
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
e-mail : JConer@asianterminals.com.ph

A JOB INVITATION

A Government Recognized Montessori school in one of the exclusive subdivisions in Las Piñas is in need of:

GRADE SCHOOL and HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

- BSE/BS E.Ed/AB or BS Psychology or with at least 18 units Education (Fresh graduates are welcome)
- From a reputable school with good scholastic performance
- Preferably PBET/LET passer and/or with M.A. units
- With excellent communication and human relations skills
- Willing to adopt Montessori principles and techniques

Interested applicants can mail their letter of application, resumé attached with 2x2 colored photo, xerox copy of transcript of records to:

73 Pablo Roman St.,
B.F. Executive Village,
Las Piñas City 1740

Immediate Hire

Our company is the global leader in next-gen internet services. We provide service to hundreds of corporate clients.

SOFTWARE PROJECT LEADER

- handle a team of programmers and graphic artists
- responsible for web design and programming projects
- uses software design methodology
- at least 2 years Project Leader experience
- experience with foreign clients a plus

PROGRAMMERS

- Java and/or PHP advanced programming skills
- HTML advanced skills
- at least 2 years actual work as programmer

The company offers monthly basic salary, commission, medical and dental benefits for you and your family.

Bring resumé with recent 2x2 photo to **Rm. 209 Ben-Lor Building, 1184 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City**; or fax resumé to 374-1610 or email resumé to **africa@akasia.com.**

We are publishers of monthly trade publications.

We need:

LAYOUT ARTIST

- Female/Male
- Must have knowledge and experience in magazine make-up layouting
- Adept in Macintosh typesetting operations specifically PageMaker

To the successful applicants, we offer an attractive benefit, package. **THIS IS AN URGENT** requirement. Interested applicants may apply in writing to:

P.O. Box 1295
Manila

AcBel

ACBEL POLYTECH INC.

AcBel Polytech Inc. is one of the world's leading manufacturer of Switching Mode Power Supplies, providing products for the personal computer, network & telecommunication industries.

With manufacturing facilities in Taiwan, China & now in the Philippines, we are continuously expanding our operations & design capabilities to meet the increasing demands of our customers.

We are a global organization with sales and technical support offices in the U.S., North America, Europe and Asia dedicated to providing fast customer response.

We are currently seeking high-caliber and results oriented team players who are seriously searching a challenging career in our Philippine facility:

DESIGN ENGINEERS
SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEERS
R & D MANAGER

- At least 3 years experience in design development, review of Switch Mode Power Supplies & related assemblies; including system integration, circuit board design & testing. Analog & digital circuit design, board layout & documentation are requisites.
- Candidates must be ECE, EE or CoE degree holders with good academic records

Interested parties are requested to email their resumés to **hrd@acbel.com.ph** or send them to **AcBel Polytech Phil., HRD, 1000 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City.** All applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

An importer and exclusive distributor of several tire and motor oil brand and Interior Finishes offers a competitive package to qualified applicants for the following positions:

SALES OFFICER – Motor Oils Division

- 25 to 35 years old
- With productive experience in the field of automotive parts industry, particularly tires and lubricants
- Honest and hardworking; with excellent communication skills
- Must have valid driver's license

INVENTORY CLERK

- Male, 22 to 25 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Proficient in both oral and written English
- Computer literate
- Honest and hardworking
- At least six (6) months experience as Inventory Clerk;

SALES ASSISTANT

- 21 to 25 years old
- College graduate
- Proficient in both written and oral English
- Computer literate
- Honest and hardworking
- At least 6 months work experience as billing clerk

APPLICANTS MUST SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS and 2X2 PICTURE TO:

TASCO, INC.

No. 70 20th Avenue, Murphy, Quezon City
Phone Nos. 913-0102 to 04; 911-8891

JPN Japan Philippine Nameplate Inc.

IMMEDIATE HIRING
ECE (MALE / FEMALE) (College Graduate)

Qualifications:

- Computer Literate
- With or without License
- Work experience not required
- Below 25 years old
- Good moral character and hardworking
- Willing to undergo training

Send your Resume / Application direct to JPN:
Address: Lot 9 Blk. 13 Cavite Economic Zone
Rosario, Cavite
Tel.# : (046) 437-1714 / 17
Fax# : (046) 437-1713
E-mail : jpn@okane.skyinet.net
Contact person : Ms. Marie / Tina

GENERAL

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING IN MANILA BANK BUILDING

WE NEED:

- Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- College graduates of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- Individuals who have a good command of English and Filipino language
- Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once.

WE OFFER:

- A **Starting pay of P19,000.00**
- Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system

APPLY AT:

5th/F, Suite 508 Manila Bank Building
6772, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Beside BPI Building cor. Paseo de Roxas

See us in your proper business attire with two (2) passport size pictures, complete resumé / biodata and the clipping of this ad on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (March 19, 20 and 21) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only.

WANTED

SALES and MARKETING EXECUTIVE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Female
- Single
- At least 5'4" in height
- 22-27 years of age
- Graduate of any 4-5 years course
- Computer literate
- Airline experience is an advantage

Qualified applicants shall handcarry their resumé with photo to:

PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES, INC.
2nd Floor International Cargo Terminal Bldg.,
NAIA Complex, Pasay City

Nursing

With Growth Comes Opportunity

Registered Nurses:

St. James Hospital and Health Centers, a progressive acute-care hospital located in the southern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, USA, offers the opportunity to use your much-needed nursing skills in a faith-focused, caring community. Drawing strength from our Franciscan Values, St. James Hospital and Health Centers is dedicated to being the leading healthcare provider, setting and meeting high standards of excellence, patient satisfaction and Catholic service.

We are currently recruiting for Full-Time RNs at our acute-care hospital, located in Chicago Heights, IL, as well as our teaching facility in Olympia Fields, IL. We have opportunities for employment in the following areas:

- **Open Heart Surgery**
- **Critical Care**
- **Emergency Room**
- **Orthopedics**
- **Medical/Surgical**

Applicants must all possess CGFNS Certificates; BSN highly desirable. Please bring your transcripts, 2 letters of recommendation, board certification and nursing license to interview. Housing assistance will be offered to selected candidates.

Meet with us:
March 20th-30th, 2001
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Marymount Development Corporation Office
186 J.P. Rizal Street
Calamba, Laguna
Phone: (049) 244-8342 or (049) 545-0347

We offer a competitive salary/benefits package. Visit our website at www.stjameshhc.org. Please mail or fax your resume to: Human Resources, 1423 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL 60411. Fax: (708) 756-6763.

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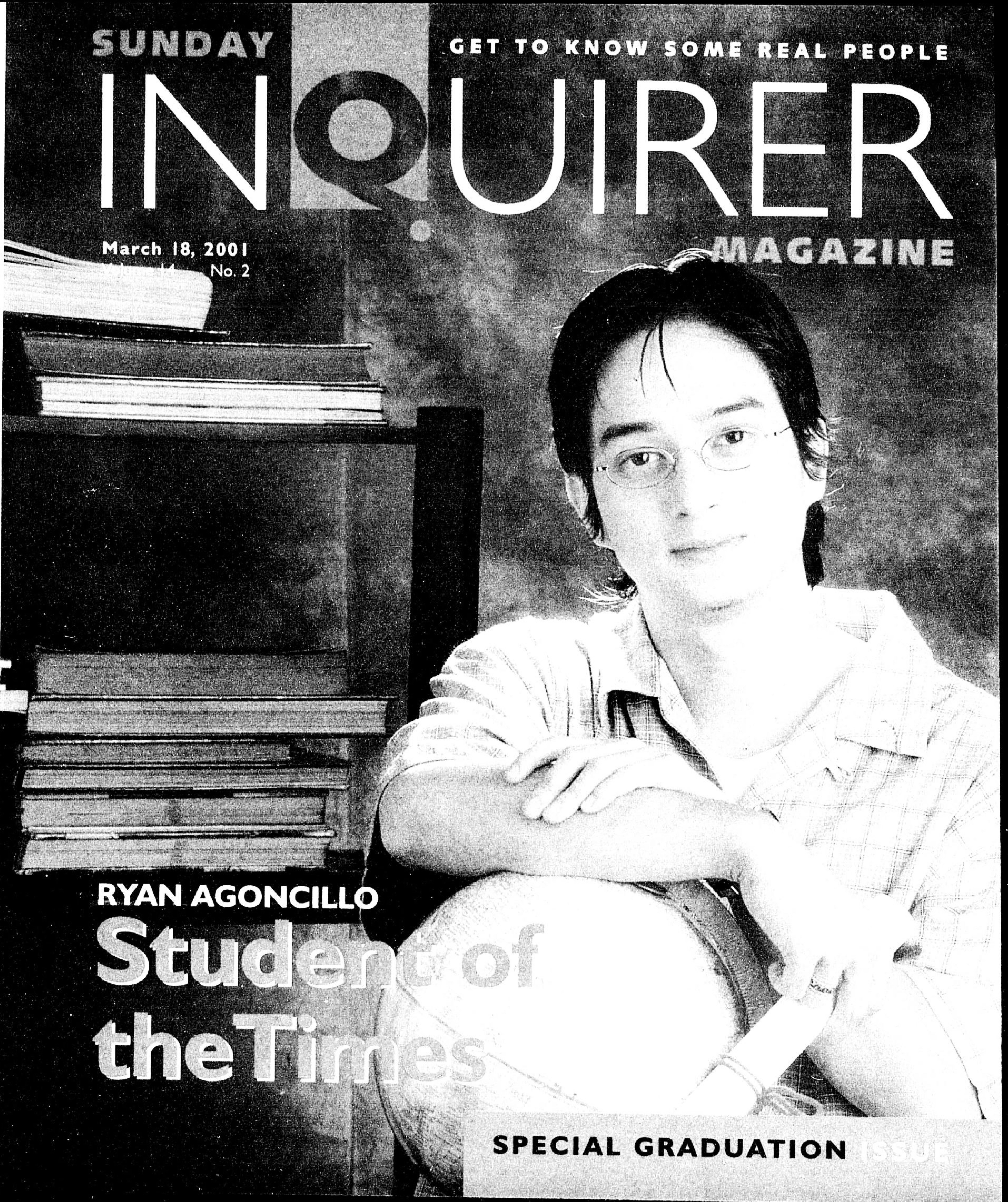
SUNDAY
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

March 18, 2001
Volume 14 No. 2

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



RYAN AGONCILLO

Student of the Times

SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE

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Pilgrim Age

for José Garcia Villa

> And this is how I have cherished you —
> deep inside the mirror, where you put yourself,
> far away from all the world.
>
> *Rainer Maria Rilke, Requiem for A Friend*

at central park   street denizens glow
their cigarettes burning like flaming red ants
then flutter away like moths at the sight
of the midnight clock's fleeting fingers,
the crescent's blade slicing the ground
in neat precision   people sprawl in the park
like the occurring autumn's
great shedding

you feel like a demigod in your prosaic dwelling:
a rundown apartment in a soon-to-be-condemned
building stairs revealing doors
hiding hostile neighbors   punk blonde and black kids
sticking splinters at your rusty doorbell
while your own door reveals to you a mirror:
stacked empty cans of pork and beans
microwave pasta hardened on the plate
toasted bread left damp by a failing thermostat
you are consoled by the presence of the bed
your faithful lover

the clock lulls you to dream as you
sprawl like a fried egg   counting years of your sojourn
leaping over picket fences over calendars and planners
this alien planet you call mecca
saying you yearn for annual thanksgiving dinners
and green crisp notes but your pockets
reveal your needing, desperate for the islands
of your emotions

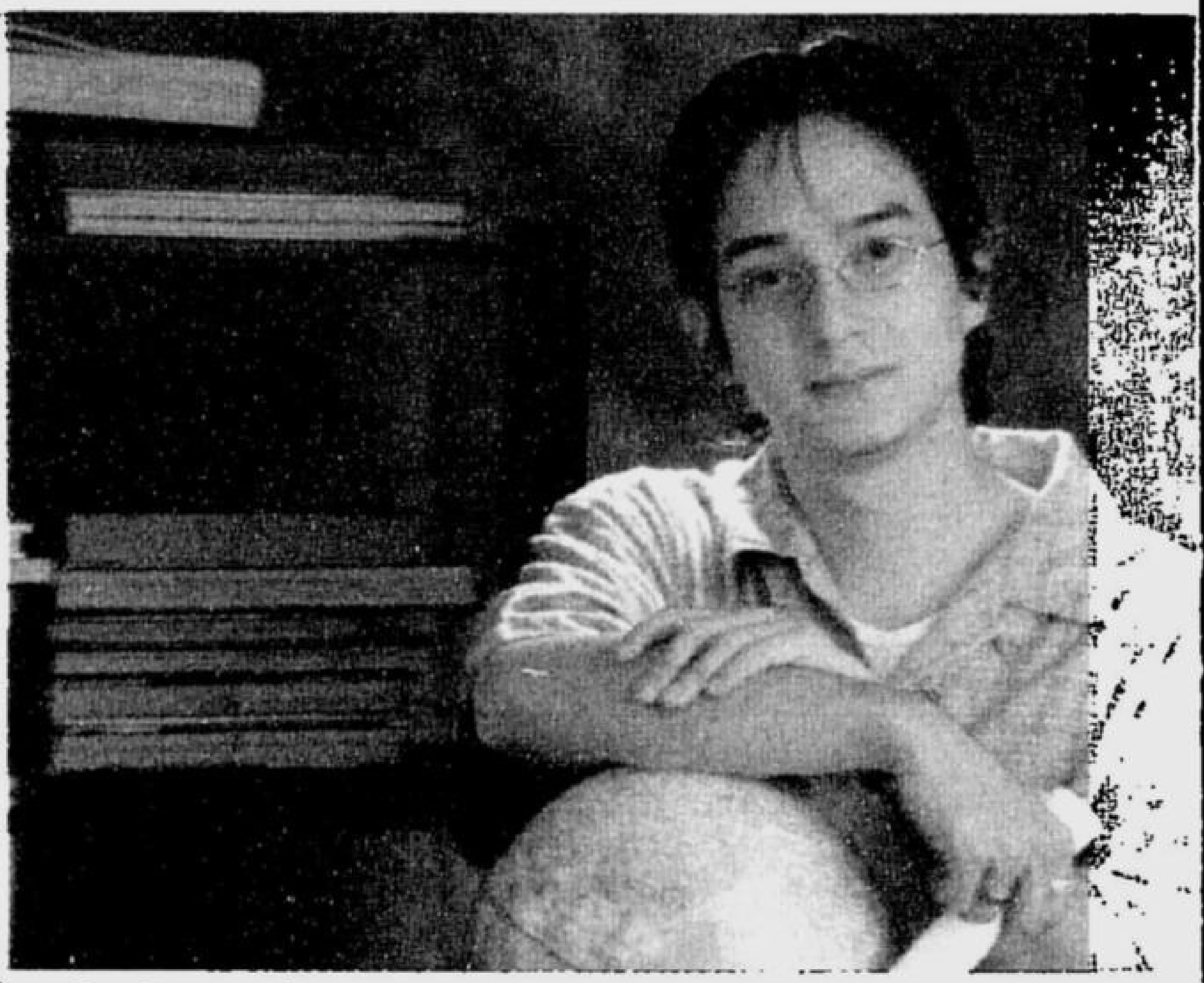
now you are pulled back into moments
that brought you here long ago
long queues of kababayans wilting under the sun's
frenzy beating   waiting for their heads
to be stamped with APPROVED
the travel papers conspired with arrogant slaps
from the priestly attaché
you have left everyone pregnant
with promises of your return
now everything that resembles you comes home
more infrequent than ever in a greeting card
how it takes time for you to finally arrive
how a struggle it is to recognize you in your overcoats
to see you beyond the christmas snow

now you feel the intransigence of your stomach rumblings
and link yourself to the ghosts postulating answers
to their letters   you imagine faces but grimace
at their very presence and feel gastric wounds searing
your soul
you feel the sudden urge to claim
to frame the pain in every corner of your bedroom
word by word, you confess to return
to pacify the homelessness summoning you home

outside
the stars scatter like vagrants without blankets
you extend your hand to them
and tell of your homecoming
but the glow they promise
have died   many years ago

Raymund Magno Garlitos

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>



Cover Story, page 3

The Cover Image Ryan Agoncillo is a face on TV and a student at La Salle--and he says the combination works great. Meet him and other interesting students as SIM looks at the Class of 2001.

Photograph by Mandy Navasero

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Cover Story

by Cora Llamas

Crush ng bayan TV star, yes. But Ryan Agoncillo, working college student, is also a smart young man who understands that you don't learn all of life's lessons in school

Eyes on the Stars, Feet on the Ground

CLEANLY HANDSOME. A WINNING GRIN. A QUIET CHARM THAT COULD SWEEP ENAMORED LASSES OFF THEIR FEET. TYPICAL FORMULA FOR THE RISING YOUNG TV STAR, MADE TO APPEAR LIKE THE BOY-NEXT-DOOR, BUT GROOMED TO BE THE DREAMBOAT THAT WILL BRING IN THE TEENYBOPPER CROWD.

Except Ryan Agoncillo, segment host of GMA-7's *"Unang Hirit,"* didn't exactly fit the type. He thought fast on his feet, was articulate in his words, and shaped his conversation with a direction and precision rarely found these days. He knew what he wanted in his life and went for it; though fame and fortune came his way, he never stopped doing his homework. This self-described "not really show biz-show biz" celebrity just might have a lot more staying power than the flashes in the pan who vanish as quickly as they appear.

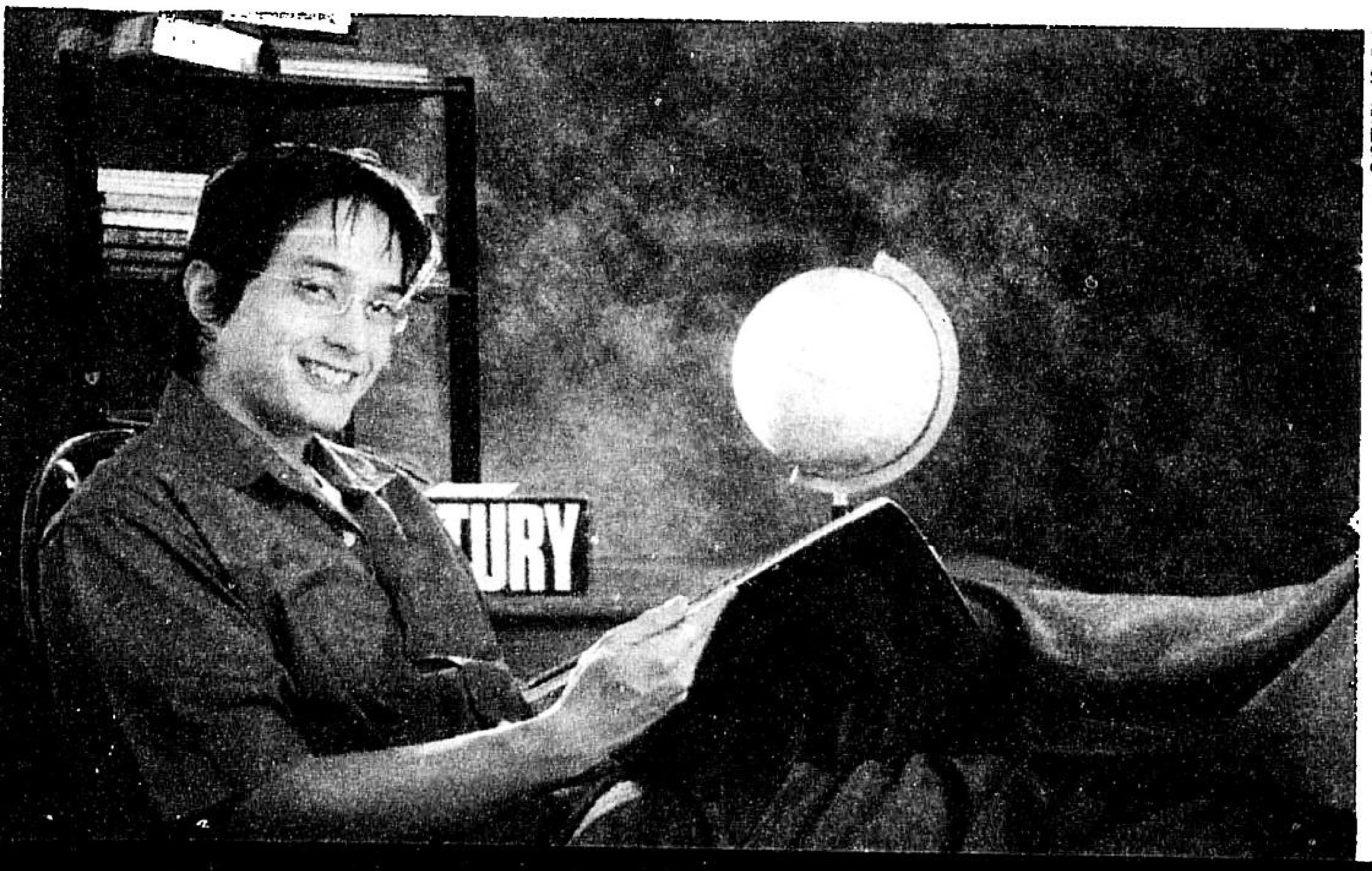
You can also forget the mating games and tabloid exposés with the cute starlets. The 21-year-old La Sallian has a steady girlfriend of two years – and he's serious about her.

"She has class," he finally says, a blush shading his mestizo features after many promptings about his secret love life. Soon enough, he was gushing with more than a little pride, despite his initial reluctance to reveal more. "Her values are so different – I was impressed! She had just come in from the US at a time when I was just starting in show biz. She didn't watch local television or the morning shows, she didn't read the entertainment section of the newspapers. She didn't know who I was! One thing that kept me going was she didn't care that I was a TV personality!"

"What makes people educated is not necessarily what they've gotten as grades. It's what they've experienced or debated with other people"

The younger of two sons of Chito and Mina Agoncillo had always preferred to keep his feet firmly anchored on the ground, even when the skies appeared to be the limit. A commercial model for brand names Penshoppe and Pocketbell since he was 14, it was not long before his good looks and wholesome image got him noticed. After crossing over into commercial TV ads, including that famous softdrink commercial that put him in an elevator with Patricia Javier, show biz offers started pouring in.

Family and friends soon egged him on to leap into stardom, telling him "You can do this and study at the same time! Don't lose this opportunity! You'll only be young once!" The only concessions his parents asked were that he get good grades and avoid the seamy side of drugs and sex. The concern was unfounded, because their son "ran away from it, literally!" Ryan breaks into laughter at the memory. "It was me who was saying, *'Ayoko!* I want to study!'



Mandy Navasero

"Sure, there's a lot of fame, money and girls involved," he explains. "But at that time – I was in second year college – I definitely knew what I was getting into."

That was his course, Organizational Communications, which he liberally defined as a mixture of two distinct, if interrelated, and very powerful worlds: Business and Communications. The same reasoning influenced his show biz choices.

The first post-commercial job that he took, ironically, was behind the cameras, as director of "Y2K," Channel 13's kiddie magazine program. Many were surprised, but then again, not many knew that "I was spending more time talking to people behind the set than being on the set. I kept talking to producers, directors, soundmen. Whatever I could learn about the business, I tried to learn."

He finished one whole season and would have signed on for another, but his thesis required his attention. When the schedules relaxed a little, he heartily accepted the offer to become the new young face in "Mornings @ GMA" after modeling buddy and TV heartthrob Paolo Bediones left. "Mornings" would later become *"Unang Hirit."*

Typically, Ryan started out as the "crush *ng bayan*" in the show's segment tour of Manila's "Best Barangays." Not surprisingly, he would take a more active role editing and directing the segment, which transformed into the meatier, more personal "Trip *ni* Ryan."

Asked how he managed to juggle the killer schedule, Ryan protests that he didn't. "I had to make a couple of decisions last year. Took a leave of work to finish my thesis. I would have graduated October of last year *kung hindi ako sumablay sa isang* subject. Now, I'm taking time out from school. I could have finished three of the four subjects I have to finish from December to January. But why bother to juggle things? I can concentrate on work, do what I can do in school now, and take a leave again this year."

School and show biz are not the only things on his plate. With a couple of friends, Ryan formed and owns Digipost, a digital-editing company. Like his course, all three complement several disciplines that make up important parts of his life.

"Everything goes hand in hand for me. Everything is a tool. My studies improve my business and my on-cam talent work. My on-cam talent work helps pay for my education and gets capital for the business. In running the business, I use my education."

It doesn't come as a surprise to learn that he's a fan of "Lonely Planet," cable TV's gritty tour of hard-to-reach geographical hot spots like the wilds of Africa or the jungles of the Amazon. First, "The show is well-researched and well-coordinated. The

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In Memoriam

by Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

The mysterious death of 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez remains unsolved, but family and friends are one in mourning the loss of a responsible daughter, a supportive sister, a loving girlfriend and a true professional

The Good Soldier

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT 2ND LT. JESSICA CHAVEZ OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY'S MILITARY POLICE UNIT THAT GETS YOU OFF YOUR GUARD. IN THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY'S SANGHAYA CLASS OF 2000 YEARBOOK, HER ENTRY IS ONE OF THE SHORTEST. NOT THAT SHE WASN'T EASYGOING; HER CLASSMATES WOULD EASILY HAVE AWARDED HER "MISS CONGENIALITY." IT'S JUST THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW OFF. UNDER "CLUB," SHE WROTE "ULAGA CLUB." UNDER "AFFILIATION," SHE WROTE "HAPPINESS!"

The photo she chose to represent her has her in pajamas and the ubiquitous "Baguio City" bonnet, sitting beside the bathroom sink, and wearing that disarming smile which her friends and classmates will tell you is the first thing they remember about her.

On the road to Fort del Pilar, the PMA has set up its own version of the Vietnam Wall, where names of dead alumni are etched on black marble.

Second Lt. Jessica Chavez will again be the first and only member in her class to be affiliated with this group. And it seems unfair that her life will be defined by her baffling death.

A little before 7 a.m. on February 9, 2001, Jessica was found lying on her bed at the MP barracks in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. She was gasping for breath and her right hand was on her chest. Her .45 cal. pistol and cellular phone were beside her.

When a female private saw blood pooling beside her, she screamed. Moments later, Jessica died on her way to the hospital.

She was only 22 years old, one of the youngest PMA graduates ever to die.

Initial police findings showed smudging and muzzle imprints on her skin and T-shirt, indicating that the firing happened at close range. A print of Jessica's left thumb was also seen on the trigger. The paraffin test on her was, however, negative.

A separate investigation and autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation initially ruled out suicide in Jessica's death. The NBI said the gun was fired from a distance. Yet, as of this writing, the NBI has backtracked and declared that the wound was "self-inflicted."

Back in Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, Chavez's parents, Efren and Melwida, and even her grandmother Ernesta, had no premonition of Jessica's death. The last words they got was a text message saying that she was on her way back to the barracks after her computer classes.

She even included the classic text laugh: "He he he."

When they were informed of their daughter's death in the afternoon of February 9, they immediately went to Manila. There was something wrong with her death, they thought. They pressed for an autopsy and asked why the paraffin test was taking so long.

They brought their daughter's body home on the morning of February 13.

When these writers went there at noon, neighbors and relatives were trooping to Barangay Padaoil in Sta. Cruz, where Jessica's mother is the barangay captain. Two old women negotiating a long steel hanging bridge and holding chickens and vegetables to give to the family confirmed that they knew Jessica. She was that playful and obedient girl.

Jessica's parents own a small shop in the *poblacion*, trading dried tobacco and some buy-and-sell items. Early February, the tobacco plants on the way to their house were still knee-high.

With parents Efren and Melwida: She first dreamed of becoming a pilot

Jessica was not initially enamored with the military life. She took the PMA examinations only because she wanted to relieve her parents of the burden of supporting two children in college. Being the eldest, she decided to enter the long gray line.

Her father Efren says Jessica first dreamed of becoming a commercial pilot. "*Noong bata pa siya ay gusto niyang maging piloto, tinatanong niya sa akin kung saan puwedeng mag-aral. Sinabi ko na puwede siya sa mga paaralan sa Maynila o kaya sa* PMA (It was her childhood dream to become a pilot and she kept on asking me where she could study to become a pilot. I told her that she could study either in a school in Manila or at the PMA)," Efren said.

With her father explaining that they could not afford to send her to a flying school, she set her sights on the PMA, where students are subsidized by the government, to achieve her dream.

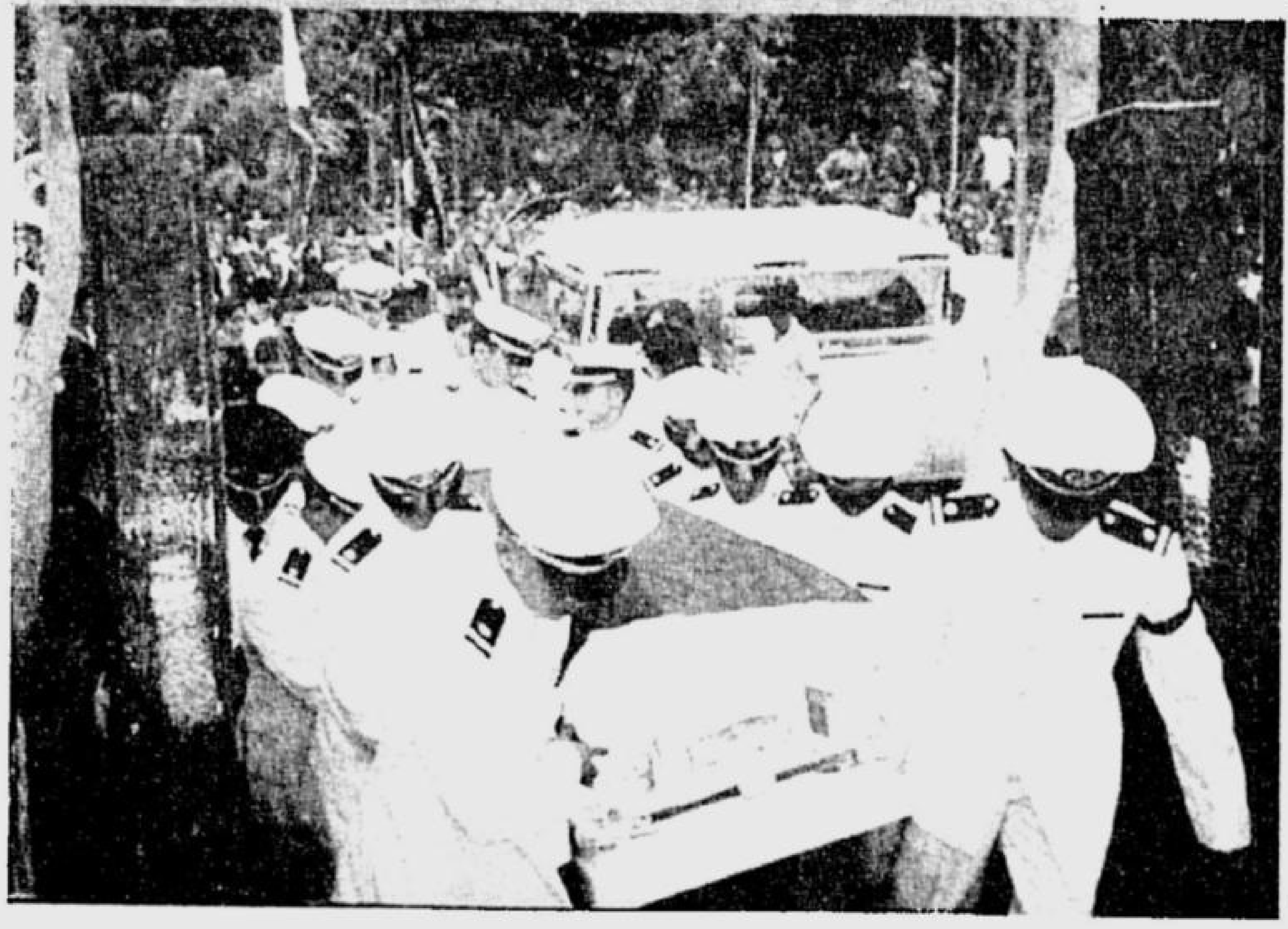
Jessica, however, failed to meet the 5'4" height requirement for the Philippine Air Force, and eventually joined the Philippine Army upon her graduation.

She has an eight-year-old sister, Clarissa, whom she promised to support through school after she graduated from the PMA. Clarissa says her *Manang* Jessica gave her Barbie dolls and many other gifts last Christmas.

Jessica's brother Marco looks up to his sister as a model. He recounts how Jessica got a loan to finance the opening of the family's agricultural supply store at the public market here and had a piggery built beside their house.

"My sister always thought of us. I think she possessed every good quality you could imagine– she was intelligent, thoughtful, hardworking, understanding and God-fearing," he says.

Jessica's friends and neighbors have known her to be compassionate to others. "She was ready to give anything to others even if it



Leoncio Balbin Jr.

Classmates carry "Chavot" home: "She was a cowboy."

would mean that she would lose something for herself," says her grandmother Ernesta. "She was ready to sacrifice for others, especially for her close relatives."

Jessica was only 17 when she entered the PMA, one of the class' 20 women. Only 10 of them, however, completed the rigorous academic and physical training at the academy.

Her classmates, who called her "Chavot" (a play on her surname Chavez), remember her as not one of the driven, gritty ones or the GI Janes. They saw her as the "fun guy," one of Charlie's Angels. She joined the Army because she was too small for the Air Force.

"Cowboy *siya. Hindi maarte at wala kaming problema sa kanya*. In fact, *isa siya sa mga pinakamalakas sa mga babae sa klase* (She's one of the guys. She's not particular about things and we didn't have any problem dealing with her. In fact, she was one of the strongest among the women members of the class)," said Navy Ensign Cyrus Mendoza, Jessica's classmate, during the recent PMA alumni homecoming in Baguio City.

One of Jessica's classmates said she initially did not like to be in the MP unit but had grown to like it since she was detailed there in August.

It was evident that Jessica did not take her life voluntarily. The last person to see her at about 6:25 a.m. on February 9 said Jessica was smiling and greeted him in her usual manner.

Her superior, Maj. Ramon Mateo Dizon, commander of the 191st unit of the Army's MP Battalion, says "Jess," as he calls her, showed no sign of depression during her last days.

"She led a simple happy life in the barracks. She works, she rests. She's happy that way," Dizon says. "You cannot ask for more from her as an officer."

He describes Jessica as intelligent and receptive. She wasn't particularly interested in computers when she joined the MP, but had become very good at it. In fact, she was repairing Dizon's computer the night before she died.

Despite her devotion to her job and help extended to her family, Jessica reserved plans for herself.

"We planned to get married in 2002," says 2nd Lt. Alvin Tanguilig of the Philippine Army, her boyfriend. Their wedding plan could have been made earlier but they thought of preparing well for their future and the wedding itself. "*Magastos kasi ang* military wedding (A military wedding is expensive)," says Tanguilig.

He describes Jessica as "well-behaved, jolly, understanding and God-fearing." He says they first met in May 2000, when they were attending the basic course for officers in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

"I admit that I was attracted immediately to her, but I restrained myself because she had a boyfriend at that time," Tanguilig reveals.

They became closer when Jessica invited him to a Bible study. It was during those times that they shared each other's problems and began to enjoy each other's company.

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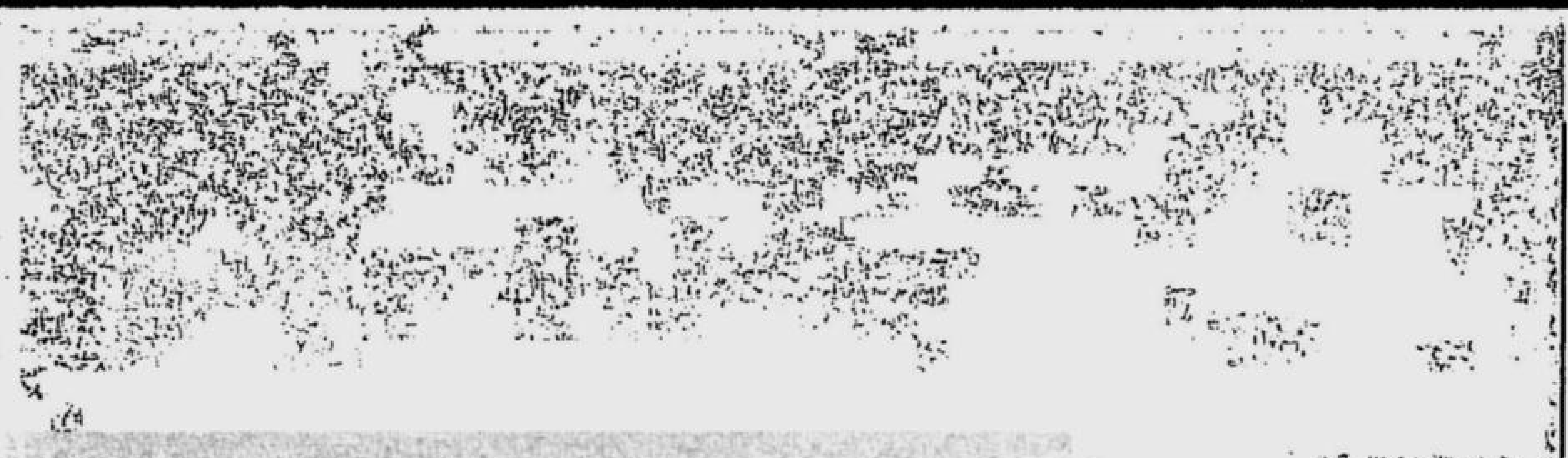

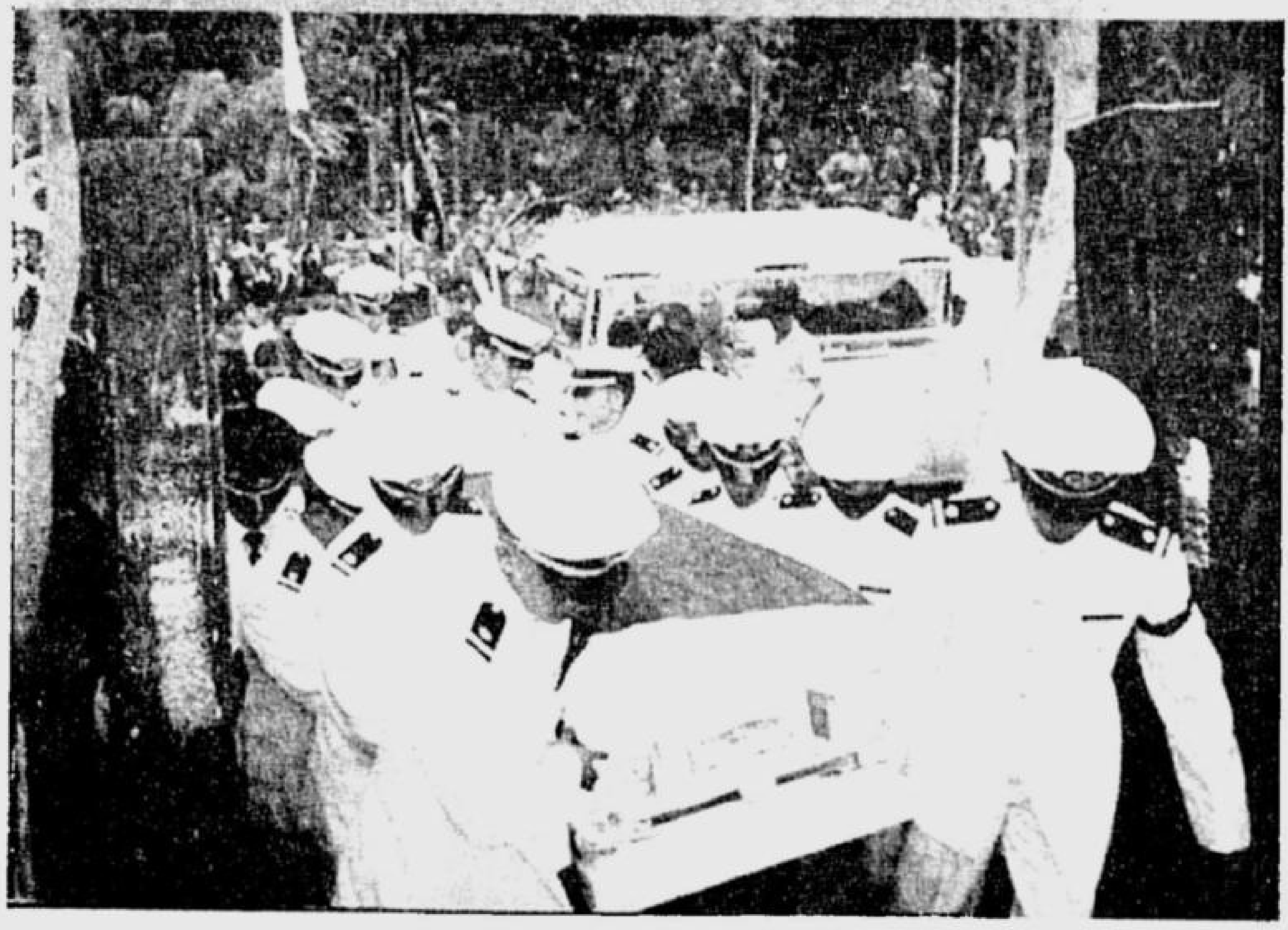

Leoncio Balbin Jr.

Classmates carry "Chavot" home: "She was a cowboy."

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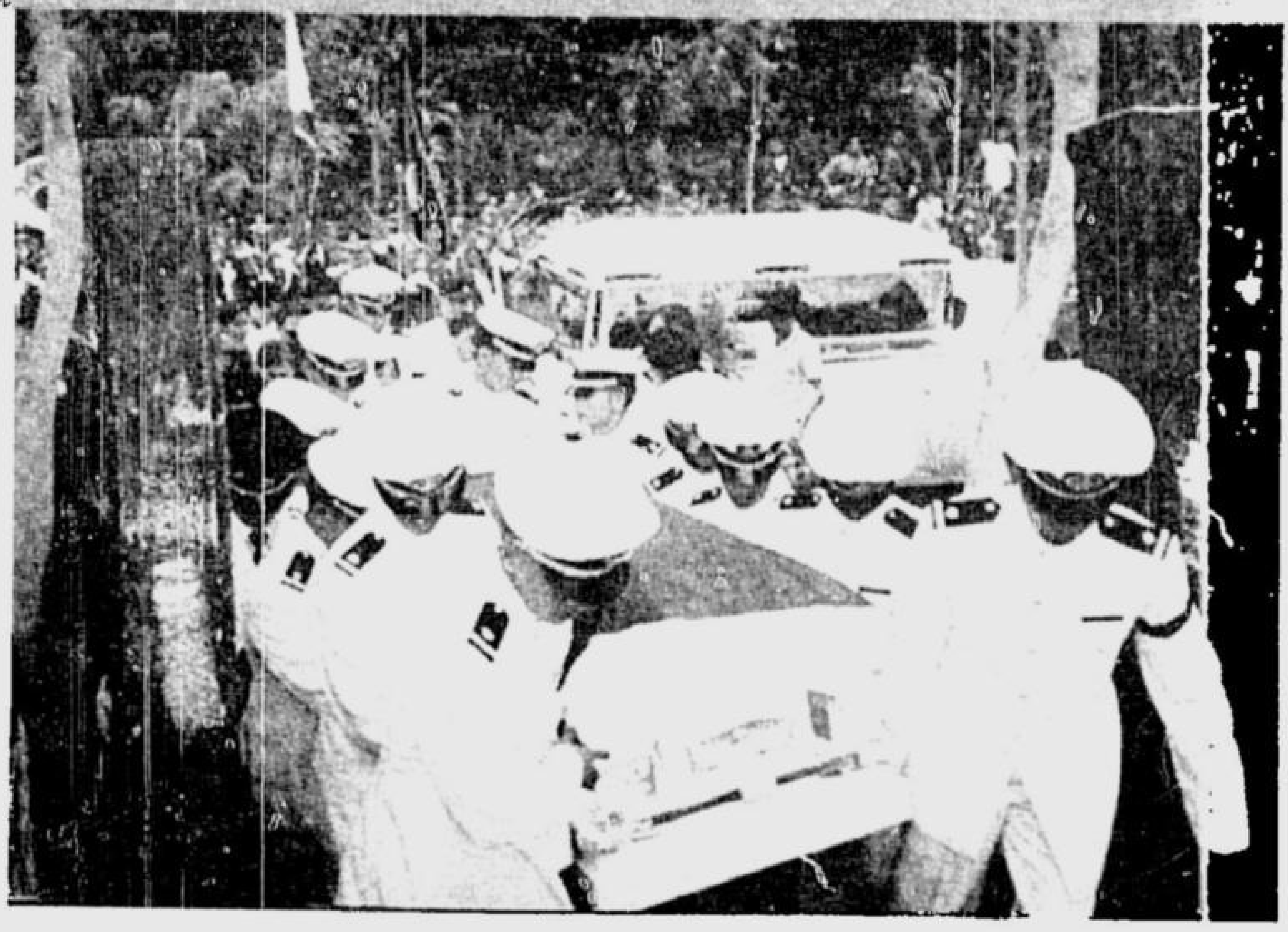

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by [illegible] De [illegible]

A rock star who's finishing college with good grades and a plan in life? Stereotype-bashing Sandwich lead singer Marc Abaya balanced songwriting and schoolwork in style

Music and Much More

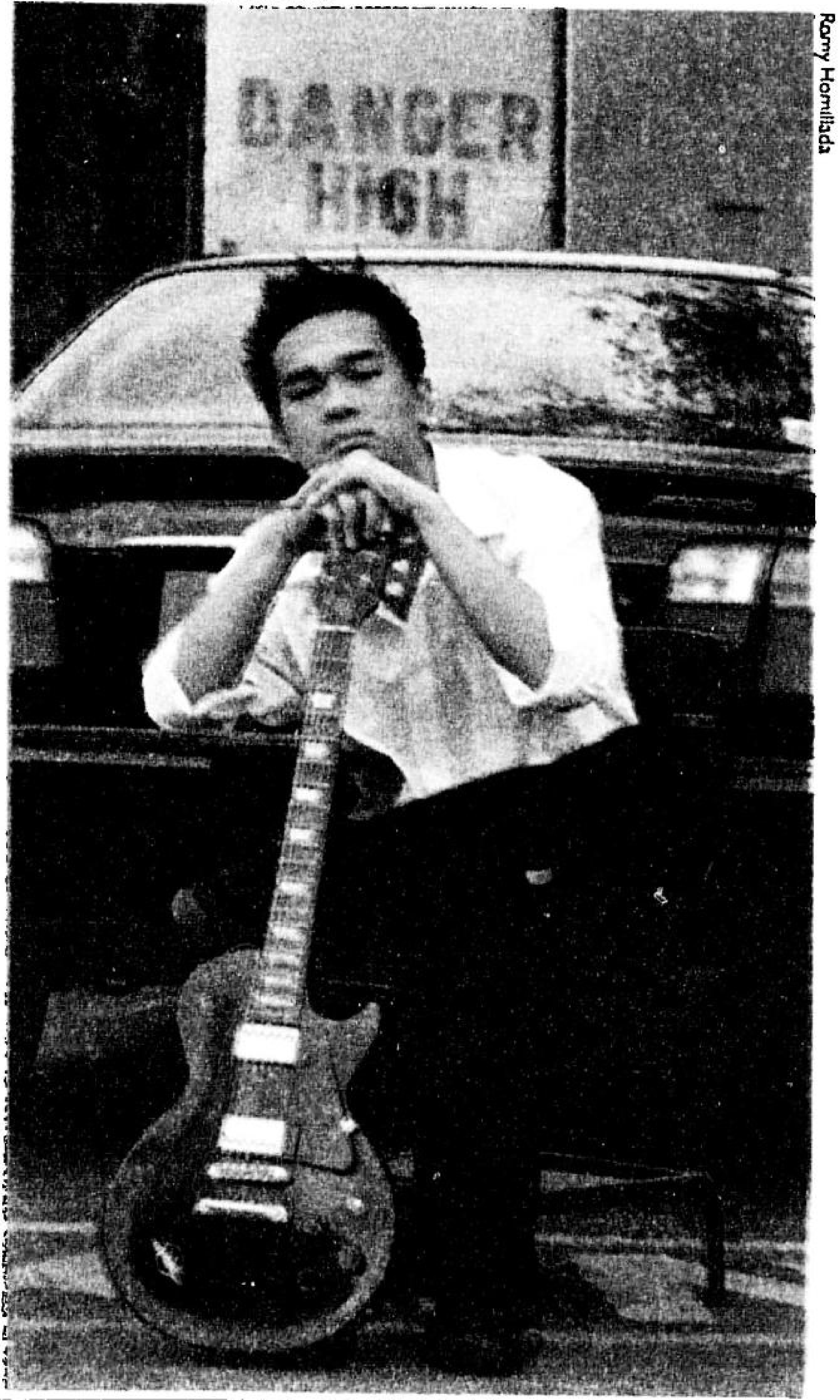
MARC ABAYA IS EAGER TO CELEBRATE. THE 21-YEAR-OLD FRONTMAN FOR MULTI-AWARDED ROCK BAND SANDWICH HAS PUT HIS BOOKS TO BED, GOTTEN A DEGREE, AND SLIPPED OUT THE ACADEME'S DOORS. SCHOOL'S OVER; IT'S TIME TO PARTY.

Marc worked for good grades. He frequented the subterranean scene without incurring any academic hitches by developing a well-defined study habit

Talk about good timing. The world wants to see more of Marc Abaya. Ever since he picked up the guitar and formed a band at age 12, the rugged rocker with the pierced tongue has had quite a following. Check out any smoke-filled bar and you just might see fans singing and swaying to the band's award-winning "Butterfly Carnival," which he wrote and interprets beautifully on stage.

Sandwich's youngest member and self-proclaimed brat is the eldest son of renowned movie directors Manolo and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. Marc grew up amid actors and filmmakers, and thinks of his childhood as completely unorthodox. "We went with our parents to their shoots," he recalls. "So growing up was always an adventure." It was on film that Marc first found music. His father collected soundtracks and tapes of music videos they loved. They bought Michael Jackson after seeing the "Bad" video and delighted in anything from "Star Wars." Over time, music would take over Marc's life.

Marc Abaya is leaning on more than just his music



Romy Homillada

"My father's great, great gift to me was a four-track, quarter-inch recorder," he shares. "I used it and spent my entire junior and senior years (in high school) writing songs." Marc didn't have a band at the time, so he had to learn all the instruments. Then he started to sing. After coming up with 30 songs, he formed Shirley Beans and joined the Ateneo High School's Battle of the Bands. The judges, one of whom was Eraserheads' drummer Raymond Marasigan, gave them the top spot.

In 1998, Raymond formed Sandwich and asked Marc if he could step in for guitar and vocals. Marc agreed. A few choice gigs later and the group's combination of power-pop, hard rock, metal, punk and rap music, electrified on stage by Marc's singing, screaming and lovely, undulating moves, took over the underground music scene. They eventually signed with BMG Pilipinas and released their first album, "Grip, Stand, Throw" in 1999. Sandwich grand-slammed at the NU Rock Awards that same year, taking home awards for Best New Artist, Album of the Year and Record of the Year.

Laid-back and comfortable in attire more casual than what most people wear at home, Marc loves hanging out. With the exception of live performances at the most happening of places, he'd rather have 20 people in his bathroom than go out of the house. "I used to love parties," he says. "But I realized it was fake. I was putting up a front." Now he just drags his friends to his room to talk, smoke cigarettes, and eat.

His "let it flow" philosophy, best manifested in Sandwich's witty, poetic, yet other times nonsensical lyrics, ("I can't hold this, this f——ing want I just have to find you!") applies to Marc's school work as well. When asked how he balanced the demands of the band and an Ateneo education—he's graduating with a degree in Communication— Marc shrugs and says, "I just did. Things just worked out for me."

No implication of a devil-may-care attitude, mind you. Marc worked for good grades. He frequented the subterranean scene without incurring any academic hitches by developing a well-defined study habit, never mind that it consisted of cramming sessions and not much else. He'd start late at night and work until morning, highlighting notes, making an outline, and reading his way to marks that would eventually put him on the Dean's List. All these, besides regular practice, gigs and recording songs. Marc admits it's risky, and had worried about the consequences. "I was anxious about school," he says. "I mean, school is the priority I was raised to hold most important. Over music, over whatever. But it can't always be that way. Sometimes you have to give up certain aspects of one for the other."

Now Marc is out to draw his own path. He's set formidable goals for himself, first of which is to get an old lady from the Babuyan Islands to sing his songs with him. "It's so clichéd and my bandmates have made fun of me, but that's the time when I can say that I've made it, that I've done my job."

Marc's dreams are ironically different from the expectations of the audience, which adores yet mislabels him as the quintessential rock star. In the music industry, rock stars are negatively perceived. They come off as people whose lives are all about sex, drugs and rock and roll. It's a lifestyle that Marc finds way over the top. "It's fine and dandy, but in small quantities," he emphasizes. "Now and then, but not if that's who you are completely."

He rages against the many temptations of the industry, from the lure of the rock star life to trends and stereotypes that turn well-meaning musicians into sell-outs. If there's anything that Marc learned from 15 years of cramming books and papers into his brain, it's how to find purpose in things. "Music is something you share with other people," he muses. "And by 'other people,' I mean *the* people, not just *a* people." He looks up to the Eraserheads, Cynthia Alexander and Joey Ayala, whom he thinks make good Filipino music. He says that despite the awards, Sandwich, whose market consists mostly of the AB high school and college crowds, has a long way to go.

He wants to effect changes, but right now, Marc's simply glad to graduate. Sandwich has just finished recording "Four-Track Mind," a second album up for release this summer, and plans to go on a provincial tour. And Marc, who was previously too busy racking up grades that would make the average rocker drool, finally gets to go. "I'm glad it's over," he grins, all flushed and happy. "Now I'm open to the world."

by Eric S. Caruncho

For prize-winning 21-year-old sculptor and musician Wed Lodriga, the role of the artist is to digest the truth and serve it in a palatable manner, "like a chef"

The Shape of Things to Come

REALITY BITES, AND SOMETIMES ALL YOU CAN DO IS BITE BACK. IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE TEETH MARKS ARE STILL FRESH. IN THE PAST SEMESTER ALONE, THE NORMALLY SEDATE DILIMAN CAMPUS WAS THE BACKDROP FOR TWO UNFOLDING DRAMAS: THE ASSASSINATION OF POPOY LAGMAN, AND A SCANDAL IN WHICH A STUDENT REGENT – NO DOUBT THINKING ABOUT A FUTURE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE – WAS ACCUSED OF MALVERSING P15 MILLION IN UP FUNDS THROUGH A "GHOST PROJECT" SCAM.

> *All children, it is said, are born Picassos; most of them just have their creativity dampened, and then extinguished, at an early age. With Lodriga it was just the opposite: he won his first art contest at age six, when he was just in kindergarten*

Arguably, this makes UP students better prepared to face "the real world" – and out there the difference is just a matter of degree. It certainly feeds the art of Wed Lodriga. The 21-year-old Sculpture major, who will be graduating from the UP College of Fine Arts this month, won the coveted first prize in the sculpture category of the 33rd Shell National Students' Art Competition last year. His entry, a stylized human figure in cast alloy, was called "The Philippines' Naïve" and was intended as a representation of the Filipinos' boundless optimism in the face of disasters both natural and man-made. "For me, the role of the artist is to digest the truth and to serve it to the people in a palatable manner, like a chef," says Lodriga. Completing the sculpture took almost an entire semester, during which current events – the Mindanao hostage crisis, the Payatas tragedy, the *jueteng* scandal – impinged on the young artist's thoughts and emerged in three-dimensional metal.

All children, it is said, are born Picassos; most of them just have their creativity dampened, and then extinguished, at an early age. With Lodriga it was just the opposite: he won his first art contest at age six, when he was just in kindergarten. This is hardly surprising, considering that his father is an advertising artist, and his mother an art teacher. Three elder siblings are Fine Arts graduates, and a younger sister is studying architecture. Obviously, art rules in the Lodriga household.

In 1994, Lodriga's formal education began in earnest when he was accepted at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling. Surrounded by natural forms, his inclination toward sculpture became more and more apparent as he learned to create three-dimensional figures from paper, resin and fiberglass. For his graduation thesis, Lodriga constructed giant dragonflies from polystyrene. It was in Makiling that he discovered another avenue for self-expression. "For me, music and the visual arts are a dynamic duo – listening to music, and playing it are also a passion for me." Lodriga joined the Makiling Ensemble, an ethnic pop group consisting of PHSA students and alumni, as percussionist. Last October, they released their first album, *"Medyo* Modern," on the independent N/A Records label, joining indie veterans Cynthia Alexander and Noel Cabangon.

By graduation, however, Lodriga had his heart set: on sculpture, and UP. He had his reasons. Most of his teachers in Makiling were UP graduates, so he figured that the teaching methods would not be too different at UP. He also felt that the relative greenery of the UP campus would make the transition from Makiling to Manila less of a trauma.

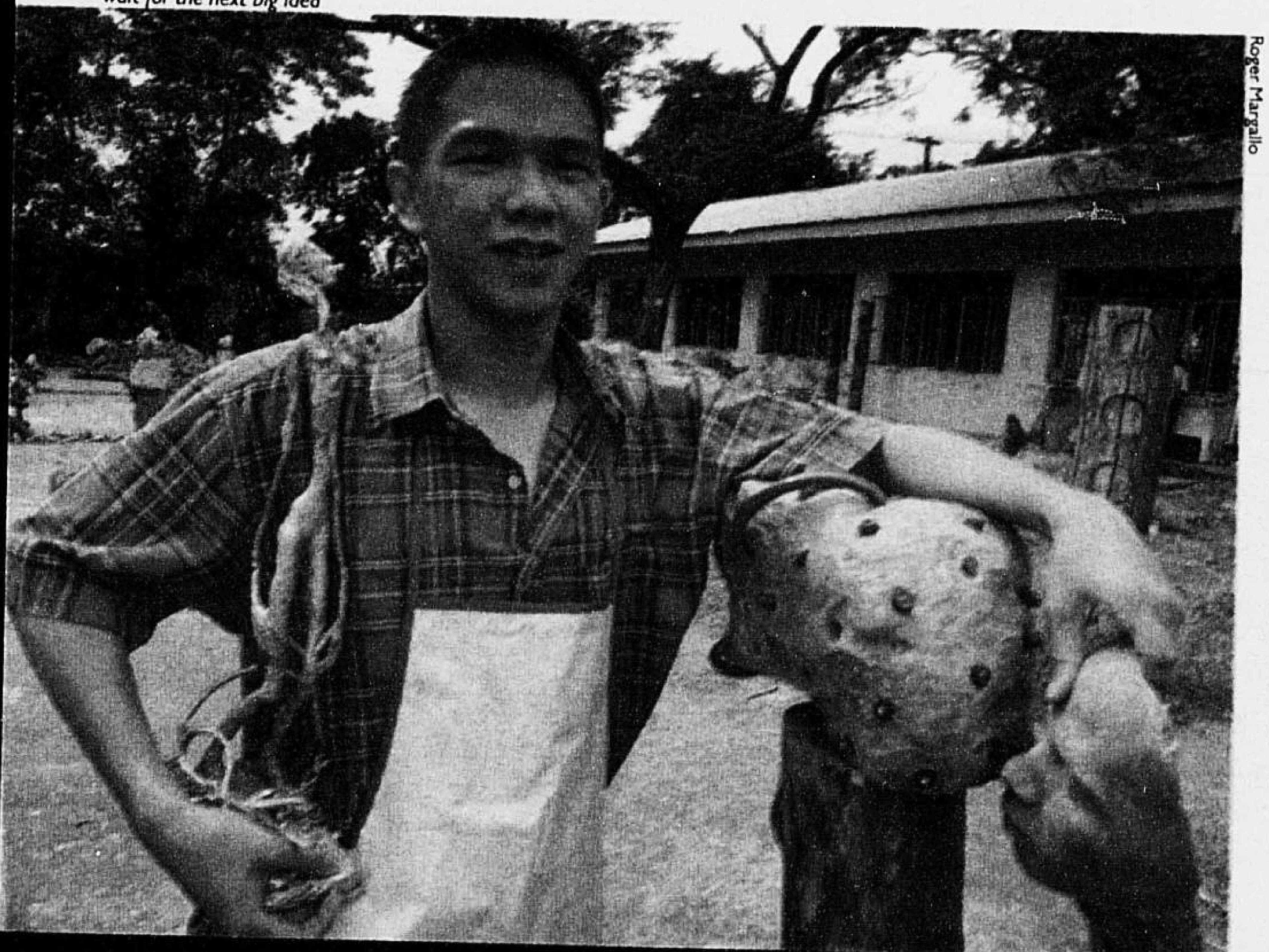
Even then, as a freshman, he felt, as he describes it, like a tribal member trying to make it in the lowlands. But the feeling soon passed as he made the adjustment to the pace of life in Diliman, and felt the excitement of learning from the likes of Bob Feleo, Jimmy Dandan, Roberto Robles, Froilan Madriñan and Leo Abaya, as well as studying the masterpieces of Michelangelo, Rodin, Giacometti, Noguchi and Moore. The atmosphere at the UP College of Fine Arts is more liberal than most, but the curriculum has a strong emphasis on the fundamentals. The Andy Warhol-it's-a-box-of-Tide-but-I-say-it's-art school of thought doesn't fly in the classroom. At the same time, UP also has a strong social realist tradition, although these days, the definition of "social realist" has stretched to include quite a bit more than drawings of heroic peasants and proletariat battling the evil forces of global capitalism.

Says Lodriga: "We tend to be more socially aware of realities in life. It's not intentional, but even when students work in the academic style, we also react to what is in our environment, our culture."

All of these influences came together in the making of "The Philippines' Naïve." Lodriga used the lost-wax process, an exacting, time-consuming and expensive method that involved modeling the figure in wax, creating a ceramic mold, melting down the metal in a kiln and pouring it into the mold, cracking the mold open and finishing the sculpture by hand. Most sculptors go as far as doing the modeling, and subcontract the rest to a foundry.

Lodriga chose to do everything himself, including improvising his own furnace and kiln. The work took an entire semester to finish, but it was well worth it – not only because of the prize money that it won in the Shell competition. Lodriga considers it his first "real" sculpture, and can't wait to do the next.

Sculptor Wed Lodriga can't wait for the next big idea



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52	91,320	182,640	273,960	365,280	456,600	913,200
53	87,240	174,480	261,720	348,960	436,200	872,400
54	80,440	160,880	241,320	321,760	402,200	804,400
55	76,560	153,120	229,680	306,240	382,800	765,600
56	72,600	145,200	217,800	290,400	363,000	726,000
57	68,600	137,200	205,800	274,400	343,000	[illegible]
58	64,720	129,440	194,160	258,880	323,600	647,200
59	61,000	122,000	183,000	244,000	305,000	610,000
60	57,360	114,720	172,080	229,440	286,800	573,600
61	53,880	107,760	161,640	215,520	269,400	538,800
62	50,600	101,200	151,800	202,400	253,000	506,000
63	47,520	95,040	142,560	190,080	237,600	475,200
64	44,360	88,720	133,080	177.440	221,800	443,600
65	41,640	83,280	124,920	166,560	208,200	416,400
66	39,080	78,160	117,240	156,320	195,400	390,800
67	36,720	73,440	110,160	146,880	183,600	367,200
68	34,480	68,960	103,440	137,920	172,400	344,800
69	32,400	64,800	97,200	129,600	162,000	324,000
70	30,480	60,960	91,440	121,920	152,400	304,800

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e.g. For 20 units of Coverage	End of Year	
Age	10th yr.	15th yr.
50	P228,219	P541,000
51	229,373	541,788
52	230,116	542,126
53	231,291	542,454
54	226,310	528,177
55	227,163	527,617
56	227,474	525,349
57	227,167	521,350
58	6,705	516,649
59	226,053	511,064
60	224,648	503,358
61	222,970	494,782
62	220,738	485,064
63	218,275	474,829
64	214,095	461,485
65	210,437	449,730
66	202,693	429,717
67	135,743	291,822
68	129,158	275,187
69	122,507	258,336
70	115,692	240,956

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

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Pay quarterly	802.45	1,599.20	2,395.95	3,195.60	3,995.30	7,990.75
Pay semi-annually	1,555.80	3,100.50	4,645.20	6,195.60	7,746.00	15,492.30
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Movers and Shakers

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
photographs by Erik Arazas

A balikbayan educator is helping raise future CEOs and presidents in this public school in Tondo, in the belief that given the same opportunities and resources, disadvantaged children can become the best they're meant to be

Her Little School That Could

IT WAS MUSIC TIME AT THIS PUBLIC SCHOOL ON ABAD SANTOS ST. IN TONDO, RECALLS FIRST-TIME TEACHER CANDICE CABUTIHAN, A CHILD DEVELOPMENT HONORS GRADUATE FROM MIRIAM COLLEGE. "WE WERE SINGING A LIGHTHEARTED SONG BUT HALFWAY INTO IT, THE GRADE 2 PUPILS TURNED SERIOUS FACES AT ME AND ASKED, 'TEACHER CANDICE, AREN'T WE GOING TO HAVE A QUIZ OR SOME SEATWORK?'"

For the pupils of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (or Centex), songs and games may be fun, but there are lessons to master, seatwork to do and quizzes to top. Says Candice, who handles music, art and computer classes at Centex: "The children are so used to doing schoolwork that they actually miss it during breaks."

And why not, when school for these kids means classrooms with a computer within reach, a hot and cold water dispenser, individual shelves for one's stack of books and an aquarium with live fish. There are also free snacks (spaghetti for today) and lunches, not to mention free uniforms, school supplies, fare money, a small allowance and an occasional movie in the school's air-conditioned audio-visual room.

> *"We don't mandate learning; we only facilitate it," says this former mentor in the Bronx, New York*

As Ma. Luisa Manalo, 8, says of what she likes best about schooling: *"Yung libre lahat, may baon pa.* (Everything's free and there's allowance thrown in)." Elvhin Joshua Jorda, another second grader, confesses to looking forward to the free morning snacks, especially *champorado* (rice and chocolate porridge). Both children don't mind waking as early as 4 a.m. to make it to their 8 a.m. classes, with Luisa traveling all the way from San Pedro, Laguna and Elvhin calling Sta. Maria, Bulacan his home. Luisa, the youngest of four children of a teacher and engineer couple, and Elvhin, the eldest of three children of a midwife and a public school teacher, are among the children that Ayala Foundation plucked from families that fit NEDA's definition of the poverty threshold. That is, families of six to seven who earn no more than P10,000 to P15,000 a month.

Atacador (right) inside a Centex classroom: "Every child deserves the best education."

Every year for the past three years, a total of 75 pupils who top a battery of tests and interviews are accepted at Centex and given quality education at par with that offered by the best private schools. Indeed, the teacher ratio of four for three classes of 25 each and a curriculum developed by a group of educators from the Education department, Assumption College and the International School are unheard of in any public school.

"But then every child deserves the best education, regardless of economic level and social environment," declares Centex executive director Carol Atacador, a *balikbayan* who saw parallels between her 13-year teaching experience in the Bronx in New York City and the prospect of shaping Tondo children into CEO material. "A social conscience was what my alma mater gave me," recalls this College of the Holy Spirit English major. Teaching third-to eighth-grade classes at the Bronx, she realizes now, was her way of justifying her having bolted the country during martial rule. "I wanted to come home but my parents warned me not to."

The Bronx stint came right after a one-year trainor's post on Wall Street, where Atacador found that she didn't have "the temperament for the business culture where people step on others to get to the top." Less vicious, she discovered, was New York's notorious borough where her earlier resolve never to take a teaching job crumbled. "I was a difficult student, always questioning authority and I thought that if I teach, I might not be able to handle the needs of students like me."

But the Bronx teaching post changed her life, says Atacador. "I realized that death and disease have nothing to do with race or color; it was all about poverty," she adds, recalling how a student, a white female, died of undiagnosed diabetes around Christmas time because the family was too poor to see a doctor. "Coming from a developing country, I didn't expect to see the same realities in a developed country." Determined to prevent similar tragedies, she was finally persuaded by Ayala Foundation executive and childhood friend Vicky Garchitorena to join Centex and give poor but talented children the same opportunities and options as their richer cousins. "Our goal is to develop these youngsters into servant-leaders who are concerned with the common good.

"We don't mandate learning," she notes, "we only facilitate it." That, Atacador adds, is what makes Centex different: "We look at the totality of the child, not just at the talent but also the production. Why is this pupil not producing as much as her potential indicates? Raised in the slums, does she have a problem with who she is with regard to her environment, to her parents and family?"

Rather than dismiss such angst, the school holds self-esteem classes twice a week, "a way to help children acknowledge their feelings and ask why they're feeling that way." The school has developed a code of ethics for the children, says Atacador, and it's summarized by the word HINTS. "First, be Honest with your feelings. Second, use the I expression, as in 'I don't like what you're doing, it makes me angry,' instead of putting the blame on others. Third, No putdown,

Teacher Candice taking Centex kids to cyberspace

allow others their own opinions. Fourth, Take responsibility only for yourself and don't tell others what and what not to do. Lastly, be Sensitive to others."

The code, says this Georgetown University Linguistics graduate, is a good tool for conflict-resolution and has worked as well in improving the parenting skills of the pupils' elders. "We provide individual and family counseling to children and their parents through a school-based psychologist as well as a voluntary monthly retreat for parents. The home environment can breed cases of child abuse, drug abuse, alcoholism and gambling so we look for ways to minimize this," Atacador says. On one wall of the school where Valentine cards bloom, one child used a cutout heart to beg her parents "to not fight anymore because it hearts my feelings." The cards were given on Parents' Day some weeks before, a regular gathering meant to get parents involved in their children's studies. Parents too are obliged to render 30 hours of volunteer work a year, their counterpart to the free tuition. "Parents do such chores as cooking, taking turns in guarding the school when the guard is on day off, carpentry work, cleaning and sweeping the rooms, and so on," says the Centex head. In the process, they also learn tips on proper nutrition, hygiene and sanitation and some livelihood skills, she adds.

Already, the difference is apparent. The children, who rise spontaneously to greet visitors in their chirpy sing-song voices, are clean, neatly combed and smooth-skinned. "I get so offended when people say, *'Hindi naman sila mukhang mahirap, ah* (why, they don't look poor at all).' You mean the poor have no right to look presentable and dignified?" bristles Atacador.

It is such passion and commitment to excellence that has driven Centex's students to the top of DECS' city-wide exams. Encouraged by its success, Centex has opened another branch in Bauan, Batangas where two of the project's sponsors, Globe Telecoms and Purefoods, have a strong presence. "It is a way of giving back to the community," says the Centex director.

Admittedly, the effort has earned some gibes: Isn't Ayala building a new elite who might soon be alienated from their own third-world roots? "Yes, but we're building an elite with a heart," counters Atacador. "We expect them to do this to others, to give back the same opportunities to those who would come after them."

Second-graders Luisa Manalo and Elvhin Jorda: an early ride to success

And while English is the prevalent medium of instruction ("because we want the students to be globally competitive"), the Centex director says that an appreciation of Filipino heritage remains a core value. "We teach them the value of *po, opo*, kissing the hand of their elders, asking permission before borrowing things and saying thank you. They also learn of Filipino legends in their storybooks."

Their main challenge at this point, says Atacador, is sustainability. Although they have set aside some funding, they are constantly on the lookout for corporate sponsors. "I'm a realist. Despite the memorandum of agreement with DECS and the local government, I know that they have limited resources so we must be ready to take up the slack when it comes."

The point is to strive for excellence, says Atacador. "Excellence," she notes, "is not a gift; it is a repeated act." And every year, as more talented children like Jorda and Manalo enter Centex, that act is repeated 75 times over.

Desperation drove him to join game shows, but a good heart and hard work eventually won the day for college scholar Rommie Patricio

With A Little Luck

Val Handumon

Good fortune smiles twice for Rommie Patricio

SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST BORN LUCKY. ROMMIE PATRICIO WASN'T. FIRST OFF, HIS NAME, RONNIE, WAS MISSPELLED IN HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE. BORN OF A MOTHER WHO PRESSES CLOTHES FOR A LIVING AND A FATHER WHO FINDS WORK WHEN HE CAN AS A CONSTRUCTION WORKER, PATRICIO KNEW POVERTY FIRSTHAND. AN OLDER BROTHER DIED IN CHILDHOOD AND THIS SECOND-BORN FELT THE WEIGHT OF HELPING OUT EARLY ON. A HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN, HE ACTIVELY SOUGHT OUT SCHOLARSHIPS TO GO ON TO COLLEGE.

"My first choice was chemical engineering because I did very well in my chemistry subjects," says Patricio, 22. But the course wasn't offered by the Toyota scholarship and the closest he could get was Electronics and Communications Engineering.

Except for a bout with typhoid fever which saw his grades dip during one semester, this UST senior coasted along. That is, until too many projects and deadlines on his fifth year threatened his scholarship in November. "I wasn't able to maintain the 2.25 required average," recounts Patricio. Fearing that he wouldn't be able to graduate this March, he wrote the Toyota group a letter of appeal and was told to wait while they studied the matter. He was desperate: what if they withdraw the scholarship? Could he find enough money to save five years of hard work? He decided to use his head, or rather his brains.

"'Eat, Bulaga!' has a quiz show called *'Korek Ka Diyan!'* and I joined it," says Patricio. But he was eliminated in the second round and came home with a paltry P500 consolation prize. Undaunted, he looked up other TV shows for a similar break and came across "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" He got lucky. Out of thousands of callers from all over the country, he was among the 100 randomly picked by the show for a qualifying round. He made it to the crucial P50,000 question: Which place is considered sacred by both Muslims and Christians? His answer: Jerusalem. Jackpot!

With his sure winnings of P50,000, Patricio wondered if he should risk a crack at the P100,000 pot. A wrong answer meant going back to the P10,000 level, hardly enough to pay the family's debts and his previous accounts in school. He decided to back out, a smart move, since the question was out of his league: What kind of plane was John Kennedy Jr. piloting when he crashed? (The answer: a Saratoga.)

More good news was in the offing. A few days before the Christmas break, the Toyota people called: he could keep the scholarship. Now he has enough to pay his tuition and graduate, and more to spare for engineering review classes from April to October. The rest of the money comes in handy for the family's daily expenses, says this dutiful son who looks forward to clinching the board exams later this year.

Sure he feels lucky, says Patricio, although as anyone will readily tell him, his real break came when he decided to buckle down to hard work when the chips were down.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Risking "*Pogi* Points" for the Environment

Meet a Samar mayor who's putting it all on the line to save a river

IT'S election season again and for many politicians, the concern these days is putting their best foot forward to score "*pogi* points" from the electorate. Not this small-town mayor in Western Samar who's doing something that could doom his chances in the coming elections – discouraging activities that give jobs and convenience to people in the short-term but destroy the environment in the long-term.

Melchor F. Nacario, reelectionist mayor of Calbiga town, Western Samar, governs an area that is host to some of the country's most pristine and unique natural treasures. These include the Calbiga Caves, also known as the Gobingob-Langon Caves located in Bgy. Panayuran, and the 14-kilometer long Calbiga River that cuts across primary and secondary growth forests before emptying into Maqueda Bay.

Nacario: Good intentions, bad politics

The Calbiga Caves are reputed to be the second biggest cathedral caves in the world, with underground chambers as big as the Araneta Coliseum, full of towering stalagmites and soaring stalactites. The Calbiga River is host to almost untouched mangrove forests at its mouth, a marine-cum-terrestrial ecosystem that Nacario is bent on protecting even if this means losing votes in the process.

"I know it's bad politics," he says. "But better this than to disturb an ecosystem on which depends the survival of Maqueda Bay and by extension, the survival of communities who depend upon the river and the bay for their livelihood."

Nacario knows whereof he speaks as he practically grew up playing and working along the Calbiga River. He says he has seen the depletion of the Calbiga River and by extension, the Magueda Bay's natural wealth, through wanton exploitation by unscrupulous elements making money out the ignorance of ordinary residents.

Nacario sees the Calbiga River as inevitably connected to the fate not only of his beloved town but of 13 other towns located along the coast of Western Samar's Magueda Bay. "What's happening on top of the mountain affects the bottom of the sea," says Nacario.

He has put a stop to logging and mining in his jurisdiction, including the mining of stalactites and stalagmites in the Calbiga Caves. In fact, it was this latter destructive activity that had prodded Nacario to run for mayor in the first place to stop those who were then actively using their elective posts to promote it.

For the 50-year-old Nacario, life today as Calbiga mayor is no different from his life in early '70s when he dropped out of the University of the Philippines to join the underground movement against Marcos in Samar. For such a good future, Nacario says he is willing to risk even the election itself. On the other hand, given such an attitude unique among politicians in the election season, he may just get another mandate from his townmates to continue what he has already begun.

Ed L. Santoalla

Voter's Voice ELEKSYON 2001

The Candidates

Editor's note: In this issue, the **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** *begins its contribution to the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Voter's Voice: Eleksyon 2001" coverage with a continuing series of short profiles of candidates. Each issue, the magazine will feature some senatorial candidates to help voters get to know the people running for national positions. We will also speak to some party list representatives and, as a reminder that this election will have repercussions in our very own backyards, a few unique stories of local government candidates from small communities all over the country. We are proud to be carrying out this project in cooperation with GMA-7. Watch out for more profiles of the senatorial candidates every evening on GMA's news programs "Saksi" and "Front Page."*

MANUEL "MANOLING" **MORATO**

Independent

As usual, Manuel (Manoling) Morato, 67, is doing it alone. In his third attempt for an elective post — this time, a second try for a Senate seat— the controversial former Censors chief and past chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) will be wearing his heart not only on his sleeves but also on his campaign stickers. He promises never to compromise his principles — even if loneliness comes with the job.

What is the central theme of your campaign?
My social concerns, which are socialized medicine, socialized education, and housing for the poor.

What experiences shaped who you are?
My family background. I had a disciplinarian father who was really very strict. I was interned in Jesuit schools in Europe and the United States from the age of 13.

Who do you relate to in public life?
I relate better to the great saints. San Vicente Ferrer is one of them. I feel that he was one of the greatest saints of the Church in the 14th Century. And St. Theresa of Avila.

Who are your political role models?
My father and President Quezon, who adhered to the old school values.

What do you read?
Time Magazine, Newsweek, all the dailies. Art books because I'm a collector.

What thinkers matter to you?
St. Thomas More is one. Rizal, definitely.

What have you done that you are proudest of in your public life or political career?
Social work. Although I'm an economist by profession, I have dedicated my life since childhood to social work. I have also been outspoken, blunt. I have learned to fight alone without help from anyone.

Tell us of a time when you voted according to your conscience in the face of strong public opinion.
As MTRCB Chair, I stood my ground against pornography despite all the challenges from a small group of so-called concerned artists—Armida, Lino Brocka, Behn Cervantes. But there was nothing I could do.

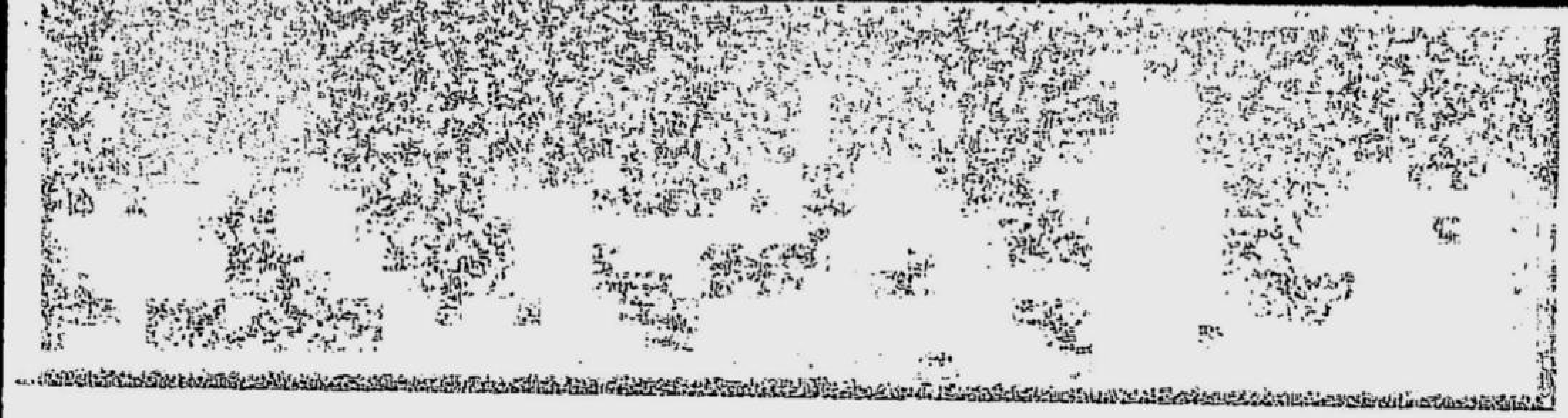
How will you govern if elected?
I'd be very committed and full of transparency. I'm quite forceful when I'm fighting for principles, when I'm fighting for our fellow men. I cannot defend myself or fight for myself. But watch out when it comes to encroaching on the rights of our fellow men.

Nini Valera

ROBERTO "OBET" **PAGDANGANAN**

LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP-People Power Coalition

Running under a catchy "re-elect" campaign, former Bulacan Governor Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan says he is all set to reclaim the Senate seat he says he rightfully won in 1998 but lost due to what he calls a "dagdag-bawas" conspiracy. Running with the People Power Coalition after becoming a familiar face during the EDSA II street demonstrations, Pagdanganan brings with him 12 years of experience as governor of Bulacan. Pagdanganan is currently president of the NGO Foundation for



Local Autonomy and Good Governance, and has an MBA from De La Salle University and a law degree from MLQU.

Describe your campaign in one sentence.
OBET—Onsehan Bawat Eleksyon Tutulan.
When you think about leadership, what words and images come to mind?
Leadership means mobilizing our people towards one direction: to improve their quality of life and help build a nation we can all be proud of. Leadership is reaching a consensus with the people on a plan of action and achieving the goals together.
What are you proudest of in your public life or political career?
I am most proud of the role I played in thwarting the coup attempts in August 1987 and December 1989 and in blocking rebel troops from the north advancing to Manila—a role which earned me the Philippine Legion of Honor in 1992. I also take pride in my clean and impressive record as a public servant. In my 12 years as governor, Bulacan has registered the highest average family income of all the provinces in the country. This was established through the programs undertaken by my administration to boost cooperative and entrepreneurial development.
What's the most important decision you ever made?
Accepting the position as acting governor of Bulacan was the most difficult and important decision I ever made in my life because it opened the door to another world—one that is entirely different from my world as a senior executive in the private sector.
Why should people vote you into the Senate?
I believe I should be elected for the very same reasons that close to eight million voters voted for me in the 1998 elections. I'll be able to bring into the Senate the perspective of a politician with extensive experience in countryside development through good local governance.

Ruel S. De Vera

RICARDO "DONG" V. **PUNO JR.**

LDP-Puwersa ng Masa

PUNO earned his Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School and was a Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee in 1986. An accomplished broadcaster and Senior Vice President of News and Current Affairs Division of ABS-CBN Broadcasting before joining government service, he was Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesperson for former President Joseph Estrada.

What are the significant experiences in life which have shaped who you are?
During my younger years, receiving the Most Outstanding Student Award in 1965 from the Department of Education and Student Life Magazine and being named one of the TOYM for Media in 1985 are two of these significant experiences. I also remember that my father, Justice Ricardo Puno, had to be away from home most of the time because of his many responsibilities. As the eldest in a brood of 12, I had to become a sort of surrogate father to my brothers and sisters.
Who is an influential person in your life, and what is the most important thing you learned from him or her?
My first year high school teacher Onofre Pagsanghan; Fr. James Donelan, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in Ateneo who influenced my love for the classics and helped me harness my speaking ability; and Fr. Roque Ferriols, also from Ateneo, who encouraged my interest in philosophy. My parents, of course, are also two of the greatest influences in my life.
What words and ideas come to mind when you think of leadership?
The words and ideas that immediately come to mind are "vision," "courage" and "single-minded purpose."
Any political role models?
Robert Kennedy is one. His words "Some people see things as they are and ask, why? I dream of things that never were and ask, why not?" has become one of my guiding principles.
Favorite books, authors, thinkers?
I have just finished reading Evan Thomas' "Robert Kennedy: His Life." Among my all-time favorites are Winston Churchill's multi-volume work on the Second World War and William Manchester's biography on this great historical figure titled "The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill." As for contemporary thinkers, I like Alvin Toffler and Francis Fukuyama.
Your definition of a successful man?
I think one is successful when one is happy and fulfilled in his work and in the relationships that he has.
In one sentence, what is your campaign platform?
I have chosen job creation, environment protection and judicial administration as the top three priorities of my political platform.

Alya B. Honasan

Female Force

A mother of seven, a reluctant politician and a once-suffering wife are the nominees of Abanse! Pinay, the party list for women

Mandy Navasero

A woman's place is in the House, according to Abanse! nominees (clockwise from left) Andrea Lizares-Si, Alice Morada, Rep. Pat Sarenas and Remmy Rikken

IT WAS a tough job but somebody had to do it. "Nobody wanted to be nominated to the women's party list so I was volunteered by the group," recounts Rep. Patricia Sarenas, who is again Abanse! Pinay's frontrunner in May. The other nominees are lawyers Andrea Lizares-Si of Bacolod and Alice Morada of Cebu and former Commission on Women executive director Remmy Rikken.

Her nomination torpedoed Sarenas' plans to retire from NGO work, go into the baking business and settle down to farming like her banker father did. It also shattered her vow never to become a politician, "because I could never see myself as part of what was, at least in Davao at that time, dirty politics."

To her surprise, she found that her work as a House representative was just an extension of her gender advocacy work. What took getting used to was the "*kapormahan* (dressing up), the power suits, stockings, the heels and pumps, but I had to blend in so I wouldn't be perceived as too different."

Among the landmark bills that Abanse and its supporters successfully passed into law were the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; the Solo Parents Welfare Act; the Anti-Domestic Violence Act and amendments to the Family Code to correct inequities in provisions about conjugal and community properties.

For Atty. Andrea Lizares-Si, being a mother of seven makes her a good representative of women's issues. "Having seven kids has taught me that natural family planning is difficult even for supposedly intelligent and educated people," she notes.

Standing up for the cause of women helps as well, says this incorporator and president of DAWN (for Development Through Active Women Networking Foundation Inc.). Lizares-Si, a regular speaker and trainor on women's and children's rights, also gives free legal advice and marital counseling to clients of the women's center.

Call her Everywoman, says Abanse! nominee Atty. Alice Canonoy Morada who believes that "except for not being a battered wife," she has experienced the whole gamut of hard luck stories that beleaguer most Filipino women. "I've had a difficult family life being an adopted child, grew up in a very dysfunctional family, lived with a husband who was at one time irresponsible, a gambler and a womanizer, was forced to take up law to become the family breadwinner, and had actually experienced sexual harassment from a boss who has been accused of rape in a sensational case that is still being tried."

Morada's having come from a family of lawyers, judges and congressmen adds to the package, as do her work with women since the 1980s as well as her experiences as a litigation lawyer. This senior associate general counsel for Aboitiz & Company in Cebu feels proudest about her having graduated magna cum laude in law from the Ateneo de Davao at the age of 40. "Just goes to show that for women, it is never too late to make changes in one's life," she chuckles.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

by John L. Silva

Reflections on the Common Man

Diosdado Macapagal's book of compiled speeches published in 1961 may be out of print, but it's certainly not out of synch

WHEN I moved back to the Philippines, I sold and gave away most everything but loaded 82 boxes of books to bring home. They were mostly Filipiniana and out-of-print books that I had found in tag sales, flea markets and rare books stores. It was a lengthy sojourn abroad, but I felt I never left home, surrounded by books about my country.

A lucky find while going through an antique store in New Hampshire was this book, "The Common Man," a compilation of speeches of then Vice President Diosdado Macapagal and printed in 1961. It's a signed copy dated November 11, 1961 and dedicated to a Mr. Jack Nevard in "...appreciation for his interest in our country."

Forty years since its publication, I read the book with much interest, given our new President, who happens to be Macapagal's daughter. I combed the speeches, some on foreign affairs, eulogies to past presidents and economic reform. I was drawn to his speeches about the "common man," about leadership and morality in public office, and on graft in government. They are relevant given the coming elections, and provided clues about our new President's platforms. In one speech, Macapagal was quite prophetic.

When Macapagal first ran for Congress, he was described, among many attributes, as a vernacular poet. His words are most stirring, in fact poetic, when he describes the poor as in this address he made at a Lions Convention in Baguio on May 1, 1958: "What sort of existence does the common man lead? He labors day and night, the sun burning his forehead and the rain endlessly drenching his skin but never getting out of the rut of his poverty. He and his family live in a shack on another's land; sleep on a tattered mat on a rickety bamboo floor; and wear cheap and torn clothes. If he has a job, he eats three meals a day, mostly brown rice and dried fish; if he is jobless, he eats twice, once or at times not at all. For lack of means, he keeps his children by his side to be laborers like him instead of in school where they could grow into better men tomorrow. When a member of his family gets sick, he is half-crazed with despair since he has no money for the doctor or medicine and thus watches his loved one stiffen unto death in his arms without medical attention."

"THE COMMON MAN"
VICE-PRES. DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL

On August 4, 1960, Macapagal gave this address concerning leadership to an audience in Davao: "Public men who predicate their leadership on the power of money are hardly the men who can furnish the needed leadership which must be aflame with devotion to the cause of the common man...the leadership needed today calls for qualities not as superficial as these. It exacts qualities of profound understanding and sympathy for the yearnings of our impoverished masses that penetrate into the infinite depths of the human soul itself. Our masses need a friend and not showmen, condescending aristocrats or seekers of wealth cloaked as politicians."

In a speech to the nation's youth on June 19, 1960, he ended his speech by saying: "We need the youth to stop and destroy the current avarice for wealth, to restore the legacy from Rizal that as between wealth in dishonor and honor in poverty, honor must be held above wealth because wealth is fragile and futile after man's end while honor survives in the fond memory of men."

Macapagal remembers Rizal and contrasts him with the leaders of today in a speech he gave to the Y's Men's Club on December 30, 1956. The words are prophetic because he describes a leader very much like the deposed Joseph Estrada to be replaced by his daughter 45 years later: "How the times have changed since the days of Rizal! For while Rizal disdained materialism, embracing penury while serving his country, trudging patiently the streets of Europe to save money for lodging, and building instead with the masonry of his struggles, hardships, tears and pains a spiritual mansion which would house the greatness of our people, today we see leaders disdaining a modest mode of livelihood and the code of honor upon which it thrives, in favor of quick-gotten opulence. In the process of avowed service to country, they sport gleaming limousines and openly build mansions wherein to recline in comfort while the people continue to languish in tumbledown shacks and unabated poverty. Oh, patriotism, what hypocrisies are committed by thy name."

There are many more insightful speeches and passages that I have noted in the book. Macapagal's writings, especially about personal poverty, remind me of another great writer, Carlos Bulosan. If Macapagal's writings rubbed off on his daughter, then there are hopeful days ahead for our people.

COVER STORY...from page 3

production values are impressive – and on a tight budget. Second, the show is hard-edged, daring to prioritize the gritty over the attractive."

It's a preference for realism that Ryan shares, especially when it comes to his career. "I'm not yet credible as a hard-core TV reporter. What I'm credible with is if I present real-life situations and real-life people."

Even when he talks about dream directorial jobs and fantasy feature films, he sets limits and recognizes parameters. "To produce something where I will have viewers, I will have to deal with reality: a mass audience, production values, quality."

Guess what subject he'll focus on in his choice documentary? Not tourist attractions, or cosmopolitan cafes, or Hollywood, but colleges. "I'll go on a mission as a 21-year-old, study in different schools around the world, and report what goes on as a student. I've never been out of Manila to study. All my life, I've been a suburban kid. I've never gotten over the fascination of people experiencing different cultures while getting an education."

The October graduate says that "if I could make school interesting, I will. What makes people educated is not necessarily what they've gotten as grades. It's what they've experienced or debated with other people. They don't have to be educated, just learned. It's not the grades, it's what gets into your head."

Becoming a little serious, Ryan questions his generation's image of success. "Yuppies would rather wear the silver belt buckle, the nice tie, the nice shoes – and have no savings. But they're in the business district, wearing the fancy watch, and drinking the designer coffee. There's premium now on the wrong things, although people go for the same goals. They still want to graduate and get a job, but for what? What makes up success?

"Success is knowing that you've done something well, and that you're out to do more."

> *"Success is knowing that you've done something well, and that you're out to do more"*

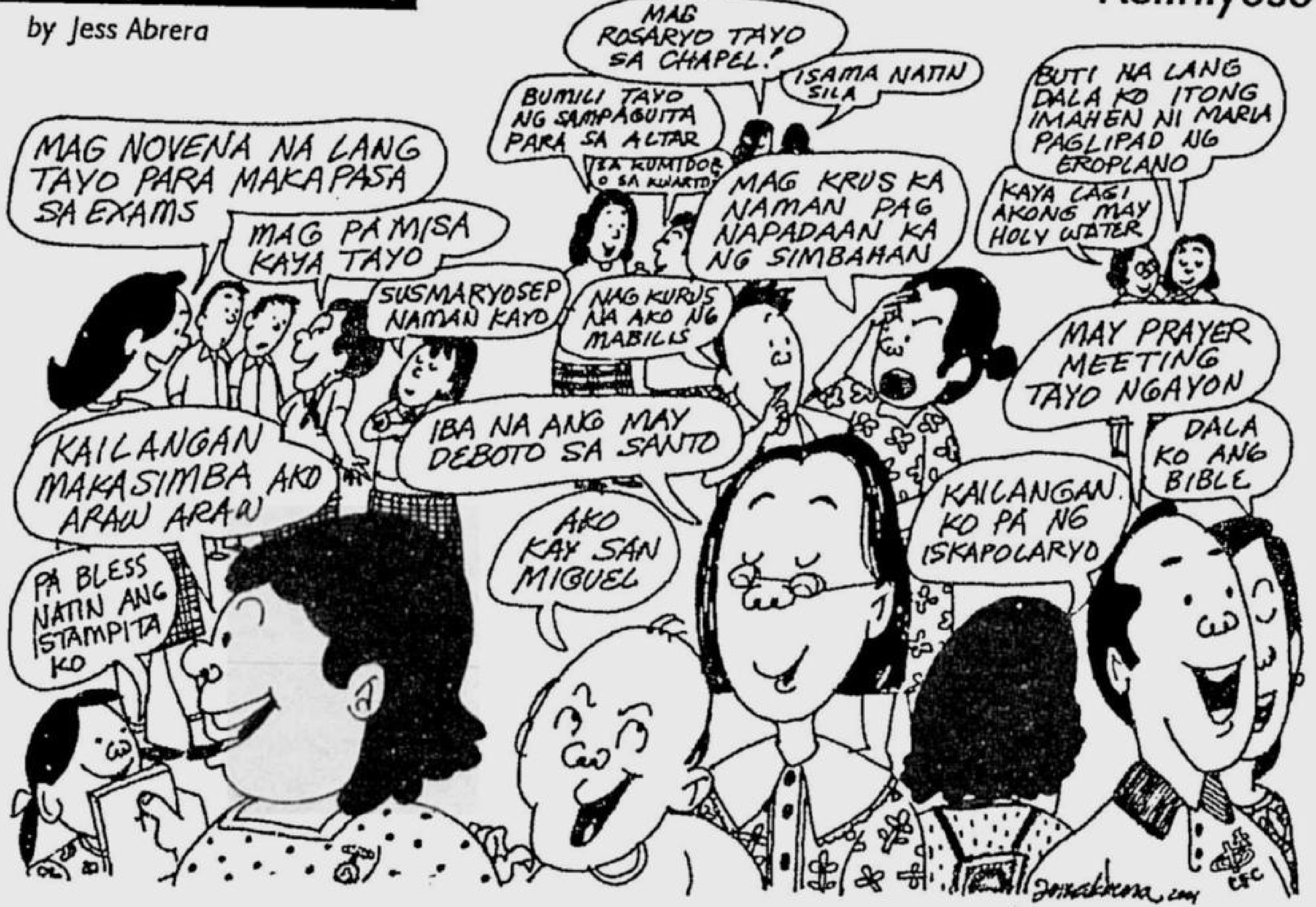
It looks like Ryan's not resting on his laurels anytime soon. There's a lot more out there to explore. And while the sunshine of celebrity stardom seems to be shining bright, he keeps planning each turn, weighing each crossroad, always packing supplies for the long trek.

It's the road the young star prefers to keep an eye on. "Of course," he grins, "you have to come down from the clouds once in a while and breathe."

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Relihiyoso


MAG ROSARYO TAYO SA CHAPEL!
ISAMA NATIN SILA
BUMILI TAYO NG SAMPAGUITA PARA SA ALTAR
SA KUMIDOR O SA KUARTO
BUTI NA LANG DALA KO ITONG IMAHEN NI MARIA PAGLIPAD NG EROPLANO
KAYA LAGI AKONG MAY HOLY WATER
MAG NOVENA NA LANG TAYO PARA MAKAPASA SA EXAMS
MAG PA MISA KAYA TAYO
MAG KRUS KA NAMAN PAG NAPADAAN KA NG SIMBAHAN
SUSMARYOSEP NAMAN KAYO
NAG KURUS NA AKO NG MABILIS
MAY PRAYER MEETING TAYO NGAYON
KAILANGAN MAKASIMBA AKO ARAW ARAW
IBA NA ANG MAY DEBOTO SA SANTO
DALA KO ANG BIBLE
AKO KAY SAN MIGUEL
KAILANGAN KO PA NG ISKAPOLARYO
PA BLESS NATIN ANG ISTAMPITA KO

IN MEMORIAM...from page 5

He said Jessica gave him her "yes" on August 19 last year.

"*Tinawagan niya ako na pumunta sa kanilang bahay sa araw na iyon at* personal *niya akong sasagutin at ipapakilala sa mga magulang niya* (She called me up and asked me to go to their house that day to meet her parents and formalize our relationship)," Tanguilig says. He asked for a leave of absence from his unit in Mindanao to grant Jessica's request.

Tanguilig, 26, of Kabacan, Cotabato, is a graduate of the Officers Candidate School. He is the executive officer of the Army's Alpha Company 29th infantry battalion based in Camp Bushra, Butig, Lanao del Sur.

At the time of Jessica's death, Tanguilig recalls he was leading his men in patrol operations. As they were roving, a radio message was flashed, asking him to report immediately to their headquarters.

What greeted him was the shocking news of Jessica's death. It was confirmed immediately by three text messages from his classmates.

Her parents said Jessica was very religious. Her motto, according to the Sanghaya Yearbook, was "God will protect me."

She was also a member of the informal "Cross Stitch Club" founded by 1997 PMA graduate, 2nd Lt. Aireen Somera. Most of Jessica's designs were hearts and roses with religious sayings.

Still, the mystery around Jessica's death remains.

Three of her relatives were killed when their stalled vehicle was hit by a speeding bus after they attended her wake. Superstitious Ilocanos will tell you that Jessica wants to tell people something, and wants her death resolved.

Her death may or may not affect women's entry into the 103-year-old PMA. Even as the PMA has graduated female cadets since 1997, the debate on whether to send women into battle still rages.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former PMA superintendent, said many ambushes commence when field troops are peeing in the woods, and the extra precaution troops take when their female troop leader is relieving herself may just be as hazardous.

Some commanders admit to "babying" their female officers, while some treat them like one of the boys.

Dizon says Jessica easily gets along with his boys. When he asked for volunteers to join Jessica's wake, all of them raised their hands, he recalls. Jessica showed that women could be very good officers, Dizon says. At about 10 p.m., the MP would summon home all soldiers drinking in bars, even the officers.

Someone saying "Last call for alcohol!" while you are enjoying your happy hour could receive a tongue lashing. But not Jessica.

"The colonels would complain to me '*Yung bata mo sinita na naman kami*' but they would say it in jest, because it's different when a girl orders you," Dizon recalls.

The officers would also be fastidious when Jessica passed by them, because they knew she would notice that wrinkled collar or wayward cap. "It will be so sad without her," Dizon says.

"It was all like a dream," her grandmother Ernesta philosophizes.

Jessica Chavez, the founder of "Club Happiness!" has just left the building.

(With a report from Robert Abaño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau)

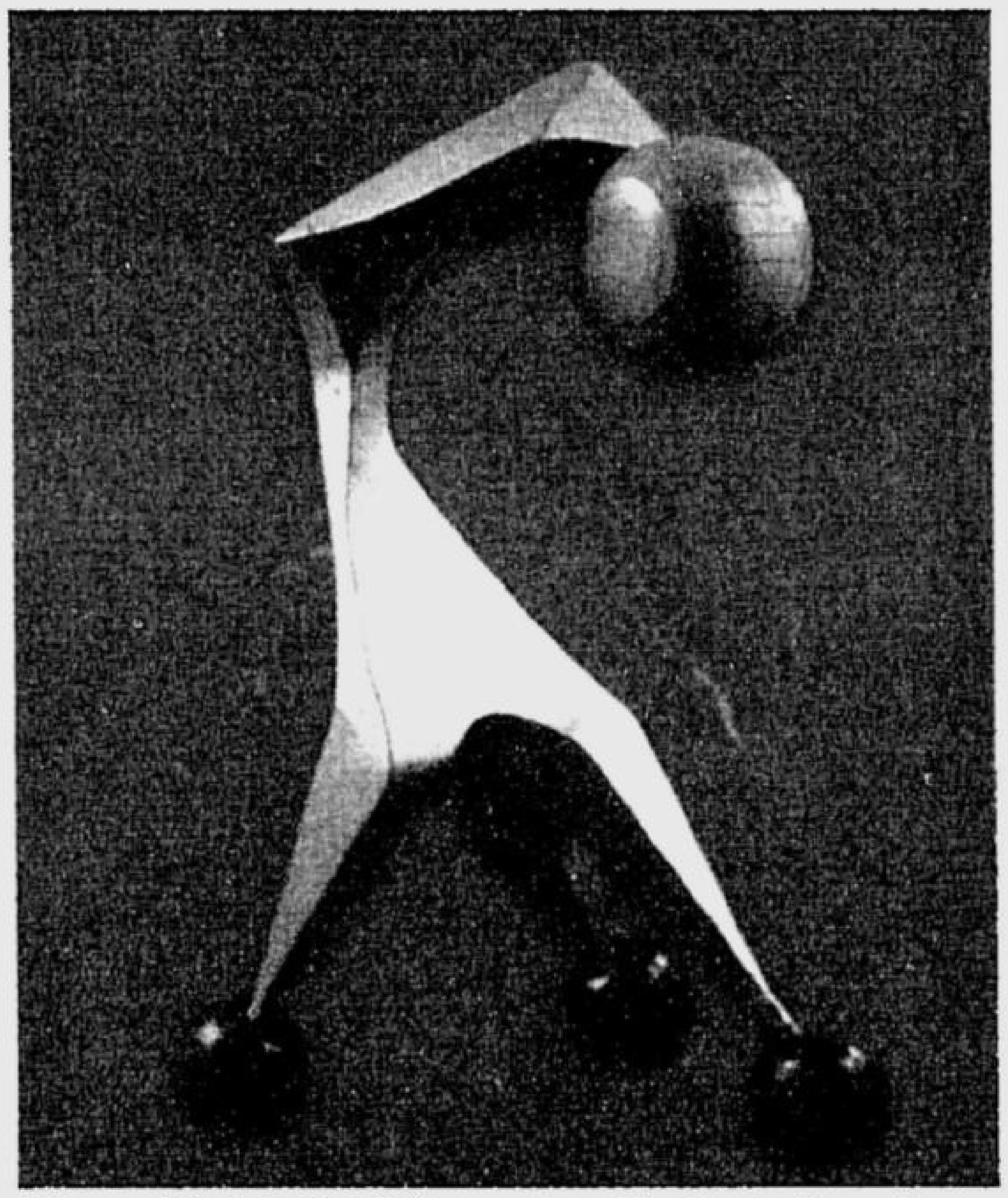
This Week

Art

J-31, an exhibit by Filipino-American sculptor E. Neri Abillar at the Drawing Room, Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City, until March 22.

Multimedia artist **Yuri Psinakis** is exhibiting his recent works on paper until March 22 at the Drawing Room, Metrostar Bldg., Makati City.

The Many Moods of Children, an exhibit by the Luntiang Daigdig Artists Group at the Center Lobby, Discovery Center, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, until March 25.



J-31, an exhibit by E. Neri Abillar, ongoing at The Drawing Room of Metrostar Building

Recent Works, a solo exhibit of Tito Roy at the Ayala Museum until March 18.

Passing Through, an exhibit of landscapes done in acrylic by Dan Reventar until March 18 at the Ayala Museum, Makati.

The Dolls of Japan: Shapes of Prayer, Embodiments of Love, a traveling exhibition of 70 dolls of wide-ranging variety at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila from March 23 to April 30.

The Propitiations to a Wounded Mountain, an exhibit of wooden carvings and collages by Australian artist Lynn Brunet, ongoing until April 11 at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The Sky is the Limit, a solo exhibit by Pacita Abad at the SM Art Center and Finale Art Gallery until March 26.

Epeisodion, a solo exhibit by Jose Santos III ongoing until March 31 at Boston Gallery, Cubao. For details, call 722-9205.

Music

Stages, a repeat of the show featuring Ivy Violan, Jinky Llamanzares and Anna Fegi at Holiday Inn's Alegria Lounge, March 22 at 9 p.m.

Barbie's Cradle will perform at SM Bacoor and Rosario, Cavite (March 24), Cuneta Astrodome (March 24), SM Southmall (March 25), Glorietta (March 28), Padi's Point Cebu (March 30) and Quorom Disco, Bacolod City (March 31).

Dynamic show bands perform at Siete Pecados of the Westin Philippine Plaza from Monday to Saturday: Velocity and Flipside (Monday), Hyperbeat and Pido with Take One (Tuesday), Human Race and Flipside (Wednesday), Velocity and Arpie & D' Multivitamins (Thursday), Hyperbeat and Mermaids (Friday), and Arpie & D' Multivitamins and Rubberband (Saturday).

SessiOnRoad will perform on March 23 and 24 at Le Fondue in Baguio, March 22 and 29 at Freedom Bar, Anonas, QC and on March 31 at The Fort.

Big Sky Mind Sessions with Red Horse Beer presents Ronald Tomas of Parliament Syndicate, Nikki Cabardo of Freestyle, Simon Tan of Lampano Alley and Koko Berjameno on March 18, 10 p.m. at Big Sky Mind, 66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, QC. For details, call 414-7451.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Formula Sports Café (638-5547/48)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Perpetrators (Taeter), a tragic farce on sexual abuse of children, March 18, 24, 25, 31 and April 1 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 4 p.m. on Sundays at the Goethe-Institut Auditorium, 687 Aurora Blvd., New Manila, QC. Admission is free.

Our Town, Thornton Wilder's classic play on the life in a small village in New Hampshire presented by Repertory Philippines at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue until March 25. For details, call 633-4821 to 25.

Film

Big Sky Mind Artists' Projects presents a free screening of **For a Few Dollars More** starring Clint Eastwood, March 20, 9 p.m. at Big Sky Mind, 66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, QC.

Food

Kamayan buffet features **Spices of the Philippines** with over 50 new dishes to feast on. Available at all Kamayan branches.

Saisaki's Teishoku, complete Japanese meal, satisfies diners with delectable and pocket-friendly variations. Available at all Saisaki branches.

Dads buffet offers an exciting culinary adventure with its ongoing **Barbecue Festival**. Available at all Dads branches at SM Megamall, Glorietta III and Alabang Town Center.

Grillin' & Chillin', a barbecue and salad bar by the pool every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the Legend Hotel. Also try their cake of the month, Chocolate Revelry. For reservations, call 633-1501 to 10 loc. 8041.

Crab Food Fest at Bahia of the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila presents many delightful ways of cooking succulent, fresh Philippine crabs until March 31. For inquiries, call 819-0645.

Atbp

Sayaw ng Pilipino, a dance performance presented by students from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, March 19, 7 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable-PCI Bank, Makati City. Admission is free.

Writing About Work. A Literary Workout, a two-day workshop on how to tap and use everyday work experience for that story, poem or essay brewing inside you, March 24, 9 a.m., Tower Room, Filipinas Heritage Library. For details, call 892-1801.

The Communication Arts Department of Miriam College Foundation Inc. will have a **grand alumni homecoming** on March 24 at Miriam College, Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, QC. Registration is at 8 a.m. For details, call 927-2421 loc. 263.

Layag: Padyak ng Binhi sa Layon, a dance production featuring the graduating dance majors of the Philippine High School for the Arts, March 22, 3 p.m. at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino of the CCP. For details, call 832-3665.

Summer Drama Workshops. Tanghalang Pilipino and the Cultural Arts of the Philippines conduct summer theater arts workshops on April 17 to May 27. Courses offered are Children's Theater, Teen Theater, Beginning and Advanced Acting, Drama in Education, Directing 1 & 2, Playwriting, Music Theater, Production and Stage Management, including Techniques in Lighting and Set Design. For details, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 loc. 1620.

Citron Rouge offers Pink Martini Nights all Mondays and Tuesdays of March featuring lounge singers Kate Pen and Diane Sison. Every Wednesday is Ladies Night Free House Cocktails. Fridays feature Let It All Out lounge singer from 7 p.m. followed by a fascinating party music. Multi-themed Saturdays feature Masquerade Party (March24) and Beach Party (March 31). For details, call 844-5452 or 844-7909.

The Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature is now accepting entries for this year's **51st Palanca Awards**. Deadline for submission is April 30. Entries sent by mail should be postmarked not later than April 15. Entry forms and contest rules are now available at the Carlos Palanca Foundation, Inc. G/F, CPJ Bldg., C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229. For inquiries, call 818-3681 to 85 loc. 31 to 24.

Kuwentong Adarna, a summer storytelling and workshop for kids from March 27 to May 26. For details, call 410-5200 or email admin@adarna.com.ph.

First-Time Filmmakers in Asia, a project by Discovery Channel showcasing upcoming Asian filmmakers. Winning entries will form the basis of the network-commissioned documentary series dealing with the impact of technology and innovation on the lives of people in the new century. For contest details, visit the website www.seasia.discovery.com.

The UP Dept. of Speech Communication and Theater Arts and Communichild Learning and Tutorial Learning Center is holding enrichment programs in **Interactive Communication** focused on Radio and Television Projection and Creative Dramatics. For inquiries, call 725-9209 or 725-9474.

The PWU-Totalle Wellness and Fitness Center (TWFC) will hold its annual **summer workshop** on swimming, martial arts, visual arts, music, minor sports and various dance instructions open to adults and children. Activity starts on March 19. For details, call 524-2609 or 5268421 loc. 142.

Grupong Tinta will hold a series of **writing workshops**: Scriptwriting (March 26, 28, 30, April 2, 4, 6); Newswriting (March 31 and April 1); Romance Novel Writing (April 16, 18, 20, 23, 25 and 27), and Comic Writing (April 7, 21 and 28). Registration is on March 18. For details, call 435-3801 or 439-4325.

Escuela sa Museo, the continuing education program of the Ayala Museum, will be offering modules in visual arts, crafts and writing designed for specific age groups on April and May. Classes will be held weekdays or Saturdays at the Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue. For details, call 812-1191 to 97 loc. 130.

Mandy Navasero will hold her annual workshop on **basic photography** every Saturday from April 7-May 26. For details, call 522-1905 or 522-5185.

X-manila

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines NCR will hold its **Regional Student Press Congress** and the Lunduyan 2001 Regional Convention on March 22-26 at Baluarte, Vigan, Ilocos Sur. The activity is open to all high school and college students, artists and professionals. For details, call 493-2764 or 0917-6412870.

Promised Land, Broken Land, an exhibit in oil and acrylic by Lea Padilla at Gallery Five, JS Gaisano Citimall, Davao City until March 28.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.